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Negro Air-Scouts Advanced In Rank

From Negro Jun-12-5-48

ANNISTON, Ala., Dec. 4—Two Negro Air Scouts of the Anniston Mt. Zion Baptist Church were advanced to the rank of Air Scout observer in a board of review at the church recently. The two are George A. Miller, 16, a sophomore at Cobb Avenue High School, and Edward Hines, 16, a junior.

The squadron, the first Negro Air Scout group in the South, has set an enviable record which has drawn comment from the National Senior Scouting Service. Last year four of the scouts attained the rank of Air Scout ace, the highest award in the Air Scout program. Only 21 ace badges were earned in the entire country during the same period. Jun-12-5-48

The Air Scout program is designed to acquaint the young aviator with aircraft structure, communications, mechanics, navigation, outdoor living and practical experience in leadership.

George Cherry, squadron leader, says that another board of review will be held in the near future to examine three more applicants for the rank of Air Scout Ace. They are Paul Hayes, Edward Howell and Odell Thomas.

SAYS BOY SCOUTS PRODUCE LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS

Negro leaders in all sections of the nation are gratified by the success the Boy Scouts of America is having in attracting Negro boys and leaders into its ranks.

When the Movement organized its National Interracial Committee in 1926 to further the work, there were 5,542 Boy Scouts and leaders of the Negro race active in its ranks. Today that membership figure has grown to 120,800 Scouts and adut lealders.

The Rev. Dr. D. V. Jemison, President of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., who has been watching the progress of Negro boys in Scouting for 15 years says:

"It pleases me to say that the Boy Scouts achieve methods that help develop them into loyal and patriotic citizens of their country. There should be an interest arounsed to get the organization organized in each city. It would help us to have more law-abiding citizens."

Bishop Willia Alfred Fountain, Senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Church likes Scouting because of the way it supplements the work of the church. He says:

"The Boy Scouts of America is not an end in itself, but a means to an end in character building, undergirdig the home, school and church. It emphasizes that no boy can grow into the best citizenship without recognizing his obligation to God and his country. Scouting is the church at work in the community life, thus producing trained men for leadership in the church and nation."

C. C. Spaulding, President of the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., makes a plea for all adults to aid their Scouts. He says:

"If our boys are to have a well-rounded life and a sound philosophy to guide them in the future, it is vitally necessary for them to have the training provided by Scouting and to practice the Scout Oath. Certainly there is no finer program in existence for the youth of our nation than the program of the Boy Scouts of America. Look around for Scouts —they need your assistance and encouragement. Please lend your influence and aid to the Boy Scouts in your community."

Joe Louis, World Heavyweight Champion, has this good word for the training available to all boys through the Boy Scouts:

"I believe in the Boy Scouts. I wish every boy could have Scout training. Tomorrow's champions—moral and psiritual as wll as physical champions should come from Scout-trained men.

"I'll do my best," the boy Scout way, is a great idea. If, as a Scout he learns to do his best, he'll naturally grow into a successful man, "physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight."

"I say to every boy, 'Be a Scout'."

Interracial Scout Unit in Mich. Given Charter

SAGINAW, Mich. (ANP) — Boy Scout Troop 26, the only interracial troop in the Valley Trails Council, received its charter recently at the Church of God, from Scout Commissioner Andrew W. Forbes, who presented it to Clarence Davis, chairman of the committee.

Commissioner Forbes gave a short talk on "The American Way of Youth," at the ceremony. Troop 26 was formed three months ago. The commissioner has also formed an interracial Cub Scouts unit, Cub Pack 326.

Boys

Children Locked In Burning Home Were Helpless

Award Winner And 3 Others Broke Window To Rescue Children

NEW YORK, N. Y. — William Jackson, Jr., 17-year-old Scout of 102 Hill street, Columbia, Mo., who with three other Boy Scouts saved the lives of five small children from burning to death in their home is the winner of the 1948 Veterans of Foreign Wars Scholarship, it was announced here this week by Dr. Elbert K. Fretwell, chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America.

The VFW scholarship, consisting of $500, and a gold medal, is awarded annually to an outstanding Boy Scout of first class rank or higher, between 15 and 20 years old, who has previously received a life saving award of the Boy Scouts and who has demonstrated Scout character, leadership, good scholastic ability and unselfish service to others.

Ray H. Brannaman, commander-in-chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, will present the $500 scholarship check and gold medal to young Jackson Thursday, Sept. 2, at 2:45 p.m., at the Kiel Auditorium in St. Louis, Mo., during the national encampment of the veterans' organization.

RECEIVED GOLD MEDAL

Jackson received the Gold Medal from the Boy Scouts for his part in the rescue. He represented last year's 47 Boy Scout heroes in a symbolic ceremony at the National Council meeting of the Boy Scouts in May 1947 in New York.

The four Boy Scouts, all Negroes, were honored for saving the five Glascow children, the eldest five years old, when fire destroyed their home on Oct. 10, 1946, while their mother was away on an errand.

Hubert Stapleton also received the Gold Honor Medal, while Augustus Chumley and Burton Richardson received Certificates for Heroism.

The scouts, returning from football practice, came upon the blazing dwelling. Finding the front door locked, they broke a window. Scouts Jackson and Stapleton entered the house and passed two children through the window to the other scouts.

Heavy smoke forced the two scouts to leave after they tried to force the locked door of a room where they thought there might be other children. They tried again a few minutes later and forced the door open but the smoke and heat halted them. Then crawling on the floor they saw the legs of a crib, where they heard the cries of other children.

Jackson felt around in the smoke and grabbed one child by an arm and another by a leg and ran with them out of the house. They still heard another cry. Stapleton entered the smoke-filled room, found his way to the crib and came out with the fifth child, an infant. Then to make certain, all four scouts crawled into the room again, felt everywhere but found no one else.

Scout Jackson averaged Grade "A" in his senior year at Douglass High School, Columbia, Mo., this year. An honor student, he was president of his sophomore class, a member of the school band, and a letterman in football and basketball. He also helped to edit his school paper.

ACTIVE IN CHURCH WORK

Jackson was president of the Youth Group of the Baptist Church he attends regularly and is a member of its choir. He was secretary of the Church Youth Conference held in Kansas. As a "good turn" he often cleans the church yard.

He took a leading part in a Scout Show to raise funds so that his troop could attend summer camp where he was a leader. He appeared in numerous school assembly programs and before the Kiwanis Club at Moberly, Mo., to promote scouting.

He directed traffic before and after school to make crossing streets safe for young pupils. He gave blood for the war effort and once for a dying girl. He helped to oil streams to combat polio and once averted a possible accident by reporting an open sewer to city officials.

One of the boys escorted a blind Shrine delegate to all sessions and places of interest during the week-long convention. The other was assigned as a special escort to another physically-handicapped visitor. The awards, authorized by the Boy Scouts of America, were made on the basis of completion of three years' training in classroom and field work by the southern scouts.

In addition, four adult volunteer leaders of scouting received recognition for their achievements. Clarence W. Reese of Troop 121 and George W. Fields, chairman of the district organization, received the scoutmaster's key. Field Commissioner Harold P. Caldwell and Cubmaster Erby Rodgers, the scouter's award. Arthur J. Kennedy, member of the district camping committee, was given the Eagle Scout rank.

Boy Scouts Get Special Awards

ST. LOUIS — (ANP) — Two boy scouts, Alfred Reich and Robert Davis, received special awards for outstanding service from the St. Louis Council of Boy Scouts in its annual session in Pleasant Green Baptist church here last week. The awards were made upon recommendation of Hadjah Temple, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, Buffalo, N. Y., in recognition of services rendered by the youths during the 48th annual session of the Imperial Council, Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, last August.

Beauchamp Holds Long Scout Record

NEW YORK— Among the 102 Negroes employed as full time professional leaders in the Boy Scouts of America, J. A. Beauchamp, assistant scout executive at Memphis, Tenn., has the longest record of service.

Mr. Beauchamp, a native of Opelousas, La., entered the professional service of the organization in October 1927 as assistant to the national director of interracial activities. He held this post five and a half years and then joined the Chickasaw Council at Memphis in March 1934. This council stands sixth in the nation in active members enrolled, having 2,304 Negro boys and leaders in its units.

A graduate of Prairie View College, Mr. Beauchamp was a teacher for six years, three at Jacksonville, Fla., and three at Port Arthur, Texas. In the latter city he was editor and publisher of a newspaper, the Port Arthur Review.

For a time he was also a general contractor and builder.

Mr. Beauchamp entered the Boy Scout Movement as a volunteer leader. He became scoutmaster at Port Arthur, Texas in 1923 and served for a year and a half. He served in the same capacity at Jacksonville, Fla., in the first Negro troop of the city.

ATTRACT NEGRO BOYS — BOY SCOUTS

National Inter-racial Committee in 120,800 Scouts and adult leaders. The Rev. Dr. D. V. Jemison, President of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc., who has been gratified by the success the Boy Scouts 1926 to further the work, there were of America are having in attracting 5,542 Boy Scouts and leaders of the Negro race active in its ranks. Today Negro boys and leaders into its ranks. When the movement organized its that membership figure has grown to 120,800 Scouts and adult leaders.

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in Scouting for 15 years, says:

"It pleases me to say that the Boy Scouts achieve methods that help develop them into loyal and patriotic citizens for their country. There should be an interest aroused to get the organization organized in each city. It would help us to have more law-abiding citizens."

Bishop Williams Alfred Fountain, Senior Bishop of the A. M. E. Church, likes Scouting because of the way it supplements the work of the church. He says:

"The Boy Scouts of America are not an end in itself, but a means to an end in character building, undergirding the home, school and church. It emphasizes that no boy can grow into the best citizenship without recognizing his obligation to God and his country. Scouting is the church at work in the community life, thus producing trained men for leadership in the church and nation."

Joe Louis, World Heavyweight Champion, has this good word for the training available to all boys through the Boy Scouts:

"I believe in the Boy Scouts. I wish every boy could have Scout training. Tomorrow's champions—moral and spiritual as well as physical champions should come from Scout-trained men.

Boy Scout Units Begin Fall Program

The Hope and Herndon Divisions of the Boy Scouts of America began their fall training session at Camp J. K. Orr with twenty-three Scouters representing eighteen different sponsoring institutions in the City. Each Scouter was required to go through the entire realignment program of the Boy Scouts.

A. J. Lewis, chairman of the program committee, started the program off with a flag raising ceremony. W. A. Quillian brought an inspirational address to the Scouters at the noon meal. Meals were served in the spacious mess hall and were prepared by Scouter A. J. Taylor of Troop 79 located at Bethel Church and J. H. Hill of Troop 206 of Roswell, Georgia.

The meals were extremely well prepared and put the Scouters in a fine frame of mind for the training session. John Dargan, Sam Davis, Czar Ingram, Arthur King and A. J. Lewis gave their services as instructors.

The training course was different from other courses in that each Scouter did the requirements just as a Boy Scout would do in his qualification for advancement.

A very impressive investitude ceremony of Tender foot Scouts was conducted by Mr. Lewis with Arthur King, S. L. Vaughn, and J. P. Sherwood acting as Tenderfoot Ccouts. A trail was laid and the Scouters followed the trail marks ending with a compass to find their way.

Ernest Carter and Marion Armstrong prepared a large council fire and presented a skit, "Good Scouter," with Messrs. Quillian, Eason, Blackshear, Tucker and Dargan taking an active part. Pictures of Camp Orr taken during the summer were shown and taps sounded off at twelve midnight for bed but Mr. Quillian kept the group up until breakfast with his stories of scouting.

The entire group explored the camp and collected souvenirs to bring back. Each Scouter left with more knowledge of the scouting program and pledged his support in helping boys find themselves. The training session was given with the idea of facilitating a better grasp of the scouting program on the part of Scoutmasters so as to insure better consideration of the boy. Let us take our hats off to those twenty three individuals who in the interest of others took advantage of this training.

Negro Leader Is Active In Scouting

A Negro leader, long active nationally in bringing Scouting to more boys throughout the nation is A. J. Taylor, Assistant to the National Director of the Interracial Service of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Taylor has been an active leader in boys' work since 1919 when he became a student at Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn.

Hundreds of leading Negros obtained from him their first knowledge of the Boy Scouts of America and the contribution it makes to their boys. He has taken special training to enable him to promote the Cub Scout program among Negro boys 9, 10 and 11 years of age.

Mr. Taylor is a native of Townsville, N. C. He is a graduate of the Henderson Institution, Henderson, N. C., and Knoxville, College. While a summer student at Tampton Institute, Hampton, Va., he attended the first training course for Negro Scout leaders in 1926.

He became one of the first Scoutmasters of his race in eastern North Carolina while serving as Principal of the Johnston County High school at Smithfield, N. C.

Mr. Taylor became a profession- leader in Scouting in 1929 and in 1937 graduated from the 52nd National Training School for Professional leaders in Scouting, conducted at the Schiff Scout Reservation at Mendham, N. J.

In his work promoting the Boy Scout program among Negros, Mr. Taylor specializes in directing Scout leaders' training courses for local Boy Scout councils and in Negro colleges and universities.

His residence is at Greensboro, N. C.

Silver Beaver Award Douglas

NORFOLK—Winston Douglas, principal of Booker T. Washington High School, became the second colored scout leader in this area to be awarded the Silver Beaver, when he was presented the coveted honor at ceremonies held in the dining room of Eureka Home Wednesday night, Jan. 21. Mr. Douglas is chairman of the leadership committee, Division 7, Tidewater Council, Boy Scouts of America.

MR. DOUGLAS

The first here to receive this honor was J. E. Fulford, commissioner of the division 7.

The presentation to Mr. Douglas was made by L. Jerome Taylor, co-chairman of the interracial committee of Tidewater Council. The recipient was cited for his 19 years of distinguished service to boy scouting.

FIRST SCOUTMASTER

Mr. Douglas was scoutmaster of the first Negro Boy Scout Troop to be organized in this city and his long years of service to scouting have been uninterrupted. He was commended for his contributions to the growth of both boy and girl scouting in Norfolk.

Principal speaker for the occasion was the Rev. J. Jasper Freeman, also an ardent scout leader.

Meeting at the Oceana High School later, the Tidewater Council, included among its objectives: (1) regain the loss in Negro membership and an effort to show substantial growth in the district; (2) step up the training program; (3) step up the campaign and activities program.

The report showed a gain in white scouting and a loss in Negro scouting.

Mr. Douglas was one of three persons in this area, the other two being white, to receive the Silver Beaver Awards during the week. They were Leon P. Jacobs of South Norfolk and Julian A. Williams of Norfolk. Only three Silver Beavers may be awarded in this territory in one year.

LATEST MEMBERSHIP reports of the Boy Scouts of America show that its programs are attracting more Negro boys and leaders than ever before, in every section of the nation.

Among the grand total membership of 2,141,984 boys in the organization on Dec. 31, 1947, there were 120,800 scouts who are Negroes.

There are now 102 Negroes employed as full-time leaders in scouting.

Boy Scout Honored

Hollywood—Lawrence Taylor, a ten-year-old Negro boy scout of Detroit was honored by Bud Abbott and Lou Costello Saturday morning, July 10, on "The Abbott and Costello Kid Show."

The comedians presented Lawrence with a wide assortment of prizes and the gold, mounted, engraved Lou Costello Junior Youth Foundation Award for good citizenship and heroism.

In addition, the stars narrated a dramatization of the boy's heroic exploit by an all-star cast of Hollywood actors. Lawrence is the second Negro youth to win the award since the inception of the "kid show" last year.

When the building in which the Taylor's lived went up in flames, Lawrence, at the risk of his own life, returned to the inferno, groped through the flames to the crib, and rescued his baby brother.

Abbott and Costello gave him a new suit, a complete wardrobe of shirts, a new hat to make up for the clothing that was burned when he saved his brother and a large number of other valuable prizes.

Active Leader in Scouting Named To High Position

NEW YORK.—A Negro leader, long active nationally in bringing scouting to more boys throughout the nation is A. J. Taylor, assistant to the national director of the Interracial Service of the Boy Scouts of America.

A. J. TAYLOR

Taylor has been an active leader in boys' work since 1919 when he became a student at Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn.

Hundreds of leading Negroes obtained from him their first knowledge of the Boy Scouts of America and the contribution it makes to their boys. He has taken special training to enable him to promote the cub scout program among Negro boys 9, 10 and 11 years of age.

Taylor is a native of Townville, N. C. He is a graduate of the Henderson Institute, Henderson, N. C., and Knoxville college. While a summer student at Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., he attended the first training course for Negro Scout leaders in 1926.

Atlantan Gets High Scout Award

ATLANTA, Ga.—J. P. Sherwood was presented the Silver Beaver Scout award last week at the annual banquet of the Herndon Division of Boy Scouts of America held at the Butler Street YMCA.

Theme of the meeting was "Scouting in the Community." Bishop W. A. Fountain discussed scouting from the religious angle; Dr. E. A. Jones from the educational angle, and Atty. A. T. Walden from the civic angle.

Sherwood's presentation was made by Dr. George P. Hayes of the English Department of Agnes Scott College and chairman of the Cub Planning Committee of the Atlanta Area Council. The Silver Beaver is scoutdom's highest award.

Mrs. Emma L. Swain was presented a large trophy for outstanding work in cubbing and scouting at Mount Olive Baptist Church. Askew Jackson of Wheat Street Church received the cubbing award for his work with Pack 34.

M. R. Austell was re-elected chairman of the Herndon Division, while John Gaither was re-elected commissioner.

120,800 NEGRO BOY SCOUTS IN AMERICA

Latest membership reports of the Boy Scouts of America show that its programs are attracting more Negro boys and leaders than ever before, in every section of the nation.

Among the grand total membership of 2,141,984 boys and leaders in the organization on December 31, 1947 there are 120,800 Scouts and leaders who are Negroes.

The Negro membership is found in 400 of the 541 Local Boy Scout Councils which are chartered by the National Council each year to administer the Scouting programs in specific areas.

Returning A Good Turn

Many good turns Boy Scouts do. They serve individuals and the public in many ways. They do it cheerfully, because the Scout is cheerful. They are helpful because that, too, is a part of the Scout oath and the Scout law.

Now the people of Jefferson County have an opportunity to repay, in part, these countless good turns. The Scout organization is appealing to citizens for $103,464 for capital expenditures over and above the Community Chest allotment for this year. The appeal has the full approval of the Community Chest board of directors.

The cause is good. The Scouts need $70,994 for development and improvement of their Indian Valley camp, the site for which was purchased in 1944 when health and camp authorities found the old camp inadequate for the demands made upon it. They also need $32,470 for construction of a Negro camp on a site not yet selected.

Camping is a basic part of the Scout program. In camp the boy learns about clean living and fair play and is aided in developing reverence for God and nature. Without facilities for a good camping program the Boy Scouts of Jefferson County will suffer, and with them the community.

Money given toward these camps is a good investment. It is an investment in Jefferson County boyhood of today and a better manhood tomorrow.

Scout Camp Sites Increasing In South For Negro Scouts

Progress in acquiring Scout camp sites for Negro boys in the Southern states and the holding of special training courses for Negro leaders is reported by the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America in New York.

Fifty-eight Local Boy Scout Councils in southern states report they own camp sites or have funds to purchase them. Most of the sites were made possible through special campaigns stimulated by the gift of $1,000 from the General Fund. One Scout Council raised $20,000 and has an excellent camp site and splendid equipment. Special training courses for Negro leaders were conducted last year in two Scout Regions. An Aquatic school for Negro leaders who then train other leaders was conducted at Palm Beach Fla., with 27 men in attendance from Region Six, comprising North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

At Camp Kennedy in Tyler, Texas, 8 men attended a special Scouting course, 43 of them from Texas, 4 from Oklahoma, 1 from St. Louis and 10 from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Sxty leaders attended a camping training school and an aquatics school at Camp Stanley Harris in Greenville, S. C., and 134 men took part in a special training school conducted at Morris Brown College in Atlanta.

Weaver M. Marr, the new national director of Interracial Service, has sucseeded Dr. Stanley A. Harris who retired after holding this post 21 years. Mr. Marr says plans are completed for more and better camping facilities for Negro boys, the establishment of a training school for Negro leaders in three other Scout Regions.

120,800 Negroes are Boy Scouts or leaders

NEW YORK — A record number of 120,800 Negro boys and men are Boy Scouts or leaders, the national office of Boy Scouts of America announced today.

Negroes are members of 400 out of the 545 local Boy Scout Councils, the report, which gave a total membership of 2,141,984, said.

Thirty-five of the councils have more than 1,000 Negroes enrolled. This includes Los Angeles, which has 1,769. New York is highest with 3,984 and Houston, Tex. second with 3,046. Twenty-seven of the above are councils which are located in southern cities.

One hundred and two Negroes are employed as full time professional Scout leaders, the report stated. All have completed training at the National Training School for Professional Leaders in Scouting at the Schiff Scout Reservation, Mendham, N.J.

A. J. Taylor, National Boy Scout Officer Brings Program To Negro Universities

A Negro leader, long active nationally in bringing Scouting to more boys throughout the nation is A. J. Taylor, assistant to the national director of the Interracial Service of the Boy Scouts of America.

Mr. Taylor has been an active leader in boys' work since 1919 when he became a student at Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn.

Hundreds of leading Negroes obtained from him their first knowledge of the Boy Scouts of America and the contribution it makes to their boys. He has taken special training to enable him to promote the Cub Scout Program among Negro boys 9, 10, and 11 years of age.

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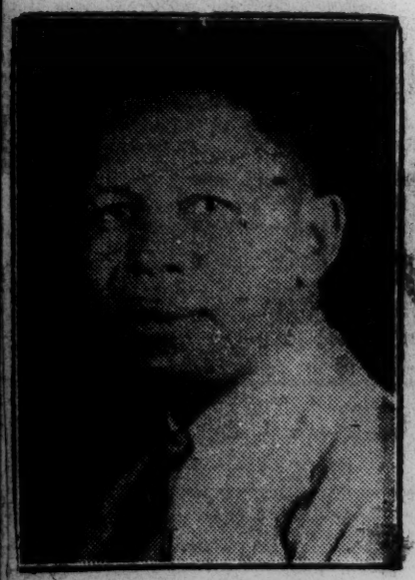
Boy Scout Director



A. J. TAYLO R

Negro Scouts Of County Need Camp

Jefferson County has 500 Negro Boy Scouts but they don't have a place to camp.

They believe in the fine ideals of scouting—that "a scout is mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight."

A total of $103,464 is being asked of Birmingham citizens for both camps, of this, $70,994 is for the white camp to be established at Indian Valley, five miles northeast of Tarrant City.

So, if you want to do a good turn for the scouts, now's the time. The place to send your gift is the scout office, in the Chamber of Commerce Building.

Remember that a Boy Scout needs a camp to live those ideals of scouting.

But, no matter how much you may believe in these ideals, they mean more if you can live with other scouts and learn to practice them, points out Dr. E. W. Taggart, chairman of the Negro scout division of the Camp Improvement Drive.

THE NEGRO SCOUTS can have the camp if the drive now in progress is successful. A fund of $32,470 is being sought for development of a camp for the Negro scouts.

Exact location of the camp has not been chosen but it will be in the Western section of the county, said scout executives.

It will have a training lodge for scout leader training and for indoor group activities, three Adirondack shelter units for bad weather and three tent areas equipped with tent floors and a cooking shelter. And there'll be a place to swim and paddle canoes, it is planned.

Showers, latrines and equipment to provide the boys with pure water also are in the plans.

NONE OF THE MONEY being sought in the drive will go toward permanent improvements for either the Negro or the white camp because the Boy Scout organization is a Red Feather service and re-

NO PLACE TO GO—This is the plight of Negro Boy Scouts of Birmingham and Jefferson County. Three of them are shown above all dressed up for camping but with no camp to go to. Left to right: Paul Overstreet, 14; William Stewart, 13, and Billy McMickens, 14, all of Troop 136, sponsored by the First Baptist Church of Fairfield. Through the Scout improvement campaign now under way, it is hoped to provide them with a camp.

Whites give Negro Boy Scouts a camp site in Florida

PAOLI, Fla. — Recent dedication of Camp Howard here for Negro boys in the Boy Scout Movement, demonstrates practical help given by white leaders in behalf of colored youth in this jim crow sector.

The 105-acre site was purchased by William E. Howard, retired New York businessman, and the late Joshua Coffin Chase, citrus grower and shipper of Sanford, Fla.

Howard is a member of the Section on Negro Work of the Boy Scouts' National Committee on Interracial Service. His winter home is near Sanford.

The late Mr. Chase was born in Germantown, Pa. 90 years ago and spent more than half a century in the citrus business in Florida.

Camp Howard, a woodlawn area at Island Lake, is administered by the Central Florida Council of Boy Scouts. Nearly 100 campers can be accommodated at one time in the six troop camp sites.

Dr. C. L. Eccleston, Negro dentist, is divisional chairman. He has 705 Negro boys enrolled in 35 troops, 3 cub packs and 2 senior units.

Southern Scouts Leaders Receive

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Scouting Problem Attracts Large Negro Membership

Latest membership reports of the Boy Scouts of America show that The Negro membership is found in 400 of the 545 Local Boy Scout Councils having between 400 and 500 Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Senior Scout Units for their boys. Negro boys and leaders than ever before, in every section of the Nationally, more than half of the Councils between 200 and 400 Councils between 200 and 300 and 21 Councils between 100 and 200 enrolled. Scout leaders feel that by churches and religious bodies of all denominations administer the Scouting programs will be continued through and 300 enrolled; 21 Councils having between 100 and 200 enrolled. National Scout leaders feel that progress will be continued through the coming years as more Negro boys and leaders enrolled.

44 1948

Camp Minisink

CHRISTMAS COMES FOR 249 IN AUGUST

All-Negro Summer Camp Plans Celebration 4 Months Ahead of Holiday for Today

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PORT JERVIS, N. Y., Aug. 24—Just four months before Dec. 25 a real, old-fashioned American Christmas will be celebrated here tomorrow at Camp Minisink, all-Negro summer camp of the New York City Mission Society.

This marks the fifteenth annual "Christmas in August" observed here by the campers. Its traditions have become the accepted thing in this part of the countryside. But the present Yuletide festivities are the most elaborate in the camp's history because 249 girls, the largest number ever to be at Minisink, are here this season.

This Christmas story began fifteen years ago, Mrs. Alberta T. Kline, who heads the Harlem unit for the society, said.

"Most of our youngsters come from the most underprivileged homes in Harlem," she explained. "We found that most had never had a real Christmas. Few homes had more than a simple wreath. Not a child from the crowded tenements ever had experienced a country Christmas, with Yule logs burning, brightly decorated trees, Christmas stockings bulging with gifts."

The picture has not changed. Last night, as "Christmas Eve" came to Camp Minisink, the youngest camper, 5 years old, one of eleven children, who had never owned a doll, clutched the one Santa Claus had just given her. For Christmas Eve was a scene of merriment. Youngsters aged from 6 to 16 exchanged "Merry Christmas" in excited tones.

Not only did the camp ring with Yuletide greetings but a chorus of carolers, 125 campers and counselors, marched in a five-block procession through the wooded sections of the 600-acre camp tract singing carols.

Although the night was warm, and carolers wore no sweaters or winter garb, even the illusion of snow was created. Talcum powder was strewn on a main pine clearing, stones were painted white.

Long before the carolers had finished their hour of singing, youngsters had hung up their bobby sox to see what Santa would bring tomorrow. Senior Scouts and counselors, observing a camp rule that no gift should cost more than 5 cents, were busy wrapping bobby pins, cakes of soap, candy.

At 4 A. M. tomorrow, tree-trimming by the Senior Scouts will begin. And the youngsters who never saw a Christmas tree will see ten giant firs sparkling with stars. And on Christmas night, Santa Claus will preside as the juniors stage their version of a Christmas toy shop.

The Music Will Start Again Tonight

Herald Tribune, New York, N.Y. Tues.

Camp songs will again ring out this evening at Camp Deer Trail, Tuxedo, N. Y., one of the three Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund camps opening today. Six other camps will open tomorrow and Thursday

428 Fresh Airs, First of Season, Off to Country

Herald Tribune, New York, N.Y. Tues. 6-29-48

Leave City With Mercury Hovering in the 80s for 2 Weeks of Rural Life

Vacations in the country became a reality yesterday for 428 city-bred children, who left New York's hot pavements for two weeks of rural life under the auspices of the Herald Tribune Fresh Air Fund. They were the vanguard of 8,500 youngsters the Fund will send to camps and Friendly Towns this summer.

Twelve contingents of brightly-scrubbed, eager-eyed children pulled out of railroad stations, bus terminals and ferry slips yesterday while the city's thermometers registered temperatures in the eighties.

Three groups went to Fresh Air Camps, where they will pass the next two weeks in sports and other outdoor activities under the watchful eyes of trained counselors.

The other youngsters were bound for Friendly Towns in four states, where they will pass their vacations as guests in the homes of country people who like to give the city children a break.

295 to Stay at Camps

Herald Tribune, New York, N.Y. Tues. 6-29-48

Of the 295 children bound for camps, 100 were girls headed for Sunny Ledge Camp at Arden, N. Y., 120 were boys going to Deer Trail Camp at Tuxedo, N. Y., and seventy-five were girls bound for Beaver Camp, also at Arden. All these camps are in the Harriman section of Palisades Interstate Park at Bear Mountain.

The campers, many of whom carried little more than a toothbrush in the way of supplies, gathered at the Forty-first Street bus terminal, between Seventh and Eighth Avenues, at 8:30 a. m. One or two of them had early cases of homesickness, most of them were full of anticipation; all were excited. The Fresh Air "veterans" among them, those who had been to camps before, did their best to make the novices feel at home. These children were in the nine-to-twelve age group.

The Friendly Town contingent left in smaller units. Sixty-nine were at Grand Central Terminal to board trains for four New York State towns—Sennett, Webster, Albion and Canastota—and Newtown, Conn. These children wore brightly colored tags giving their names and addresses, together with their hosts' names and addresses.

Tired Of The Raid

The Times, Tues. 6-29-48

To the Editor of The News-Age-Herald:

I noticed an editorial in The News entitled "Whom Do They Serve?" From the tone of the article I gather that it is thought that the sheriff, solicitor and the attorney general and their assistants are shielding the hooded men who invaded the Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer and are not making any attempt to find them. I doubt if such is the case.

I realize that the invasion of the Scout camp was wrong, but I agree with Augusta Buckingham, whose article appeared in Voice of the People, that the two white women had no business sleeping in a tent at the Negro Girl Scout quarters. I also think they played into the hands of troublemakers who were vote-hunting and didn't care how much trouble they caused. 7-25-48

I wonder, too, how many people who wrote articles which sounded as if they favored white women occupying such positions as the two who are under discussion would be in favor of their wives and daughters doing the same thing. Birmingham, Ala.

For days I read articles in Voice of the People against the men who invaded the Negro Girl Scout camp. I wondered why so much ado was made over the raid. It was natural that it would have been condemned and written up in the papers for a few days, but to prolong it over such a period of time seems to me unusual, as there are a lot of things occurring every day that could well call for articles of criticism in the paper. Perhaps some constructive criticism on these things might help prevent them, but such cases usually find a place in the papers for one day and that's all. Sun.

When I read the editorial again making reference to the Negro Girl Scout affair, it looked to me like an attempt to reawaken interest in the affair and get everyone off again writing about the "hooded hoodlums." Why not let the matter rest?

7-23-48 MRS. NINA DURRETT.
500 Third Street, Southwest.

Boy Scouts To Mark 38 Years Of Service

44

The Informer, Sat. 1-17-48

NEW YORK — More than 2,420,000 members of the Boy Scouts of America throughout the nation will observe the 38th anniversary of the organization during Boy Scout Week, which opens Friday, Feb. 6 and continues through Thursday, Feb. 12.

Sat. 1-17-48

The theme of Boy Scout Week this year is, "The Scout Citizen at Work . . . in his home . . . in his community . . . in his nation . . . in his world." Scouting's activities for the year beginning with the birthday celebration will be related to this theme.

Houston, Texas

"BUSHELS OF FOOD" PLAN

The nation's Boy Scouts are engaged in the program of saving and producing food to alleviate the world's food shortage. As part of their service program this year each Boy Scout is expected to "save a bushel, grow a bushel, share a bushel" of food.

Each Cub Pack, Boy Scout Troop, Senior Scout Unit, will share in a "Report to the Nation" that will tell of their community services last year and their program for this year. The report will be made to the President of the United States, to Congress and to the United Nations. Sat 1-17-48

PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR

In addition to conserving food and natural resources, the Boy Scouts will emphasize safety and fire prevention, home repairs and personal health. Through their World Friendship Fund of voluntary gifts the Scouts have sent more than 3,000 tons of supplies to help Scout organizations overseas to rebuild. This aid is to be continued throughout 1948.

Identity Of Scout Raid Heads Declared Known

The News Birmingham, Ala. 9-1-48

Carmichael Says Leaders Will Be Revealed In Due Time; Links Klan With States' Righters

Identity of the leaders of the hooded, robed band that invaded a Negro Girl Scout camp seven miles southeast of Bessemer the night of June 10 "is pretty well known and will be revealed in due time."

This disclosure came from Alabama Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael as he addressed the Methodist Committee for Social Action at the Dexter Avenue Methodist Church in Montgomery last night.

The attorney general linked the Ku Klu Klan to the States' Rights group in his talk and charged that the States' Righters are attempting to divide the South so that the Republican Party can win in the November general election.

Describing the Klan as "that bloody wart on the body of our social structure," Carmichael said:

"They perform such acts of bravery: Covering their heads with sheets and invading the private quarters of two white women in the Birmingham area recently, is a classic example of their chivalry.

* * *

"THEY SHOULD ALL be decorated and made members of the order of 'the swinging gallows,' after conviction and trial, of course.

"The identity of the leaders of a handful of these hoodlums in the Birmingham area is pretty well known and will be revealed in due time, accompanied, I hope, by proper indictment, and followed, I trust, by trial and conviction."

Mr. Carmichael today said he could not elaborate further on the identity of the leaders of the hooded band at this time.

In his talk last night, Mr. Carmichael continued:

The News 9-1-48

"The August, 1948, version of States' Righters includes, as an auxiliary, a small bunch of thugs, bums and hoodlums, covered by sheets, acting under the instruction of some revolutionaries who hold high places in the States' Rights organization in the Birmingham area.

The News Birmingham Ala.

"THE SOLE PURPOSE of this organization of revolutionaries, bums and thugs is to so weaken democracy in Alabama and throughout the South as to make a Republican victory certain."

Mr. Carmichael charged the States' Right group is taking part in "the greatest betrayal of the best interests of the people of this state ever seen in Alabama."

He said this "betrayal" is being accomplished within the framework of the Democratic Party of Alabama by "so-called" leaders whose sole political, economic and personal interest is that of bringing about a national regime favorable to the clients they represent. . . .

The News

"It's a giant conspiracy, controlled directly by the National Committee of the Republican Party. Liaison between the Republican Party and certain so-called leaders in Alabama is complete."

MR. CARMICHAEL THEN asked his audience if they knew the identity of "those who are trying to make Mr. Dewey (Republican nominee for president) popular in Alabama?" He answered his own question with this:

"It's that Horace Wilkinson (Birmingham attorney), McCorvey (Gesner McCorvey), breed of rooster (the Democratic Party symbol in Alabama) I am not going to vote under.

"It's Hugh's (Hugh Locke, Birmingham attorney) and Horace's (Horace Wilkinson) Wall Street rooster who is trying to make Mr. Dewey popular. Why would Hugh and Horace want to make Mr. Dewey popular? Because they know sooner or later the people of Alabama are going to become fully aware that Horace and Hugh are on better terms with the National Republican Committee than with any other party committee and that Horace and Hugh are really working to help Dewey win."

MR. CARMICHAEL SAID he would vote "under the rooster" in November, but added: "It won't be the rooster who brings to Alabama the greatest act of political prostitution in the history of Alabama politics . . . it will be a rooster who is not on speaking terms with either Gessner, Hugh or Horace."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL said "States' Rights nowadays means the placing of power in those places where it cannot be exercised. The tidelands bill pending in Congress is an excellent example.

The News Birmingham Ala.

"The powerful oil companies are great States' Rights folks. Why? They want the oil lands, from low water mark out to sea three miles, placed in the hands of the states, the weak states if you please, where they can be easily stolen.

"It's much more difficult to steal from the Department of the Interior."

Wed 1-9-48

Mr. Carmichael charged the States' Righters "do not want the race issue settled. It's their stock and trade. The States' Righters dearly love that old red herring, the race issue. . . .

"The professional States' Righters feel very deeply on the race question, not because they want to solve it or even offer helpful suggestions, but because, for their own selfish interest, according to their very faulty reasoning, race hatred and intolerance must be kept alive for use in contests in this state where questions of race are not even remotely involved."

MR. CARMICHAEL THEN explained his coming vote in November as under the "rooster who wants to see the races, both whites and Negro, live in peace and harmony and in prosperity if you please, with equal economic advantages accorded each race."

In conclusion, Mr. Carmichael described "the profesional States' Righters in Alabama as being 'under contract' . . . to bring about a national administration which will enable their clients, many of whom are absentee landlords and consider Alabama and the South as a part of their vast domains, to make a great deal more money than they would under a Democratic administration."

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL at the outset of his talk made it clear that he is opposed to "anti-lynching, anti-poll tax, anti-segregation and FEPC legislation by the National Congress." He said such matters should be let to each of the sovereign states.

1-9-48

"With our own senior U. S. senator, Lister Hill, in the forefront of the battle," Mr. Carmichael declared, "Southern senators have defeated every effort to pass such legislation which would encroach upon the rights of the sovereign states."

Mr. Carmichael said Sen. Hill has pointed out that the Republicans plan, if they win in November, to change the rules of the Senate so that Southern senators cannot talk proposed civil rights legislation to death as they have in the past.

Final Plea For Girls' Camp Site To Be Made Here Sunday

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga. 9-5-48

By MRS. GEORGE TOWNS

There are 30,000 Negro girls in the city of Atlanta who ought to have the opportunity of wholesome development, physically, mentally, and spiritually provided by camp life. Of this large number of girls, less than 100 were able to attend camp at Fort Valley because of the distance. What is needed, is a camp in easy reach of this city, where girls may go and board and where others may go for a one-day trip at much less expense.

Sat. 9-5-48

The YWCA is trying to buy just such a camp that is near enough to be reached in less than one hour's travel, where water, pleasant surroundings, and suitable equipment will be provided and where trained supervision will be given. Here is the best sort of opportunity to show our appreciation for our mothers on Mothers' Day. How much better it is to do something for the wholesome development of the mothers of tomorrow than to be satisfied merely to pin a rose on our coat.

Sun. 5-9-48

Through the efforts of the Camp Committee of the YWCA, under the leadership of Mrs. J. B. Prather, the down-payment of $1,000 has already been made, but the help of every citizen of Atlanta is needed to complete the payment of $4500 on the cost of the land. To those who have not already given, an opportunity will come next Sunday which is Mothers' Day, in the various churches, as well as in a door to door canvas. Let us not continue to neglect our girls. Here is an opportunity and a privilege.

Girl Scout Camp Will Be Reopened

Atlanta Daily World Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHOM, Ala. — (SNS) — The Girl Scout camp, which was closed over the week end following the appearance of robed and hooded men who ordered two white women instructors to leave town, will be reopened, the Jefferson county Girl Scout council announced Monday.

The Alabama attorney general, meanwhile, was asked by a Birmingham attorney to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., an Alabama corporation.

Police protection was asked in the reopening of the camp, located near Bessemer.

Sat. 5-15-48

Girl Scout Membership Increased 19 Percent

Memphis Tri-State Defender

NEW YORK—The unprecented immediately among Brownie Scouts birthrate increases of the war years and in a very few years to the older are making the job of Girl Scouts Girl Scout and Senior Scout groups. colored and white, of the U. S. A., The report stated that in 1947 the biggest in its 36-years history, Girl Scout Membership had in according to a statement by Mrs. creased 19 per cent, the largest gain C. Vaughan Ferguson, Girl Scout since the war. Total membership, National President, in the Organi- all racial groups, was 1,409,680 girls zation's annual report issued this and adults. Brownie Scouts 394, 321; week.

Girl Scouts 634, 697; Senior Scouts

Millions of Girls, colored and 63,195; and 317,476 adult members. white, born during the war are now There were 60,671 scout troops in reaching Brownie Scout age (7 approximately 10,000 communities through 9 years). By 1950 there will in every state and the United States be 14 million girls 7 through 17 possessions. years of age and eligible for membership in Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. To achieve its goal to offer Girl Scouting to every girl who wants to join, the organization must tremendously expand its membership, activity, Agriculture, was opened to

Fri. 4-11-48

Of all Girl Scout activities, the badges in such subjects as beekeeping, dairying, conservation, poultry raising. Among new 1947 is the badges in other fields introduced in this is the radio badge designed to help young people become discriminating radio listeners.

Fri. 4-11-48

Scouts who may now earn proficiency

SCOUT FOUNDER Juliette Gordon Low was honored at special services at Savannah, Ga., recently and this interracial color guard took part in the ceremony which was attended by high post office officials and national Girl Scout leaders. Betty Miller, fourth from the left, represented Negro Scouts.

Scout Founder Honored In Dixie

The interracial color guard of Savannah, Ga., in their new look Girl Scout uniforms who took part in the exercises there on the commemorative stamp honoring Juliette Gordon Low, founder of Girl Scouting, who was born in that city. High Post Office officials and national Girl Scout leaders attended the ceremony. Betty Miller, fourth from the left, represented Negro scouts.
(SNS Photo)

Stowe Student To Attend Girl Scouts' Covered Wagon' Conf

Cooperating with other Region 8 Councils of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Wyoming, Girl Scouts of Greater St. Louis are, for the first time, entering into an experiment tried successfully at last year's Long Beach, California, national convention, when selected Senior Scouts from various parts of the country participation in activities and were authorized as voting delegates.

Accordingly, two Greater St. Louis Senior Scouts, Audrey Ann Hoffman, Troop 375, and Paula Ann Bowman, Troop 682, carefully chosen for this distinction, will accompany, as delegates the fifteen local adult members who leave here in private cars next Sunday and Monday (October 17 and 18) to attend at Lincoln, Nebraska, from Tuesday through Friday (October 19-22) the 1948 biennial "Covered Wagon Conference" of Region 8 of Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. Headquarters for the conference is the Cornhusker Hotel.

Audrey, 16 years of age, is a freshman at Stowe Teachers' College. Paula, also 16, is a senior year student at Southwest High School. The two girls were selected by a committee of adults and Senior Scouts on the basis of scholastic standing and extra-curricular activities; successful Scouting, participation in group living experiences such as camping; and quality and degree of leadership displayed in Senior Council and Conference activities as well as in other related experiences. During the conference the two Scouts will take part in a youth panel.

Mrs. Carl W. Messinger, president, will head the local group attending the conference. In addition to Mrs. Messinger and the two Senior Scouts, others in the group are: Mrs. George B. Gannett, Mrs. R. P. Breslo, Mr. and Mrs. George R. Lantz, Mrs. Clark R. Gamble, Mrs. Michael Maksin, Mrs. Fred E. Tiarks, Mrs. Fred Kunderman Mrs. Jerome Boone, Miss Philena Evans Chase, executive director, Miss Elizabeth Brooks Thorn, Miss Marion M. Smith, Miss Betty Mae Bone, and Mrs. George M. Trickett.

Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, national director, heads the group of eleven members of the national headquarters staff who will serve the conference as speakers and consultants. Mrs. Rittenhouse will talk at the closing session on the theme of the conference, "Girl Scouts United By Ideals." Keynote speaker at the first session on Tuesday afternoon will will be Mrs. Nathan Mobley, national treasurer. Guest speaker at the opening banquet on Tuesday night will be Dr. Arnold Lowe of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The business of the conference will be a follow-up on action taken at the 1947 national convention and discussion of considerations slated to come before the 1949 national convention. Special activities scheduled include, among others; camping workshops; a camp development clinic; a special program training day; and a colorful pageant entitled "Song Of Scouting."

Girl Scouts Newtwo young white women to leave York City are shown planningtown. The raiders were suspect- for the nation-wide "givinged members of the notorious Ku party" which features the Klux Klan.
"Clothes for Friendship" project of the Scouts. The clothes being packed by the girls will be sent to destitute children in Asia and Europe. More than 1,200,000 Girl Scouts throughout the nation are participating. The program will continue through 1942, with a goal of one million garments. On March 12, the 36th anniversary of Girl Scouts, the first mass shipments will be made and progress reported.

The white instructors were made to leave because they were accused of violating the South's segregation laws. The camp was closed the following day.

Hooded Raiders Of Girls' Camp Cleared In South

BESSEMER, Ala., A grand jury here failed last week to indict members of a hooded terror gang which raided a Negro Girl Scout camp near here last June and forced two white women instructors to flee in the night.

Solicitor Howard H. Sullinger said Thursday night that the grand jury took no testimony relative to the incident because "We did not have sufficient evidence to indict anyone."

An estimated band of 100 robed men invaded the camp on the night of June 10 and ordered the

Who Were The Raiders?

The raid conducted by hooded men on the Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer occurred on the night of June 10. Eighty-two days later the statement was made by Atty. Gen. Carmichael that the leaders of the raid were "pretty well known and will be revealed in due time." A lot of people are wondering when that "due time" will arrive. Now 10 more days have gone by and no further statement has been made by Mr. Carmichael, no public action taken.

State Solicitor Howard Sullinger of Bessemer has come forward with a request directed to Mr. Carmichael to submit any information which he has. He made the request, he says, on Sept. 1, the day after Mr. Carmichael included his statement in a public speech made in Montgomery. Through Wednesday he has had no reply to his letter.

A Grand Jury convenes in Bessemer Sept. 20. Mr. Sullinger would like to have the information which the attorney general promises to hold for presentation to the Grand Jury at that time. It seems a reasonable request. Mr. Sullinger said:

"If I thought anyone had pertinent knowledge of the raid they certainly would be subpoenad before the Grand Jury."

Sheriff MacDowell agrees with Mr. Sullinger. He, too, would subpoena any person admitting knowledge of the raid. He said further: "This is an offense against the laws of the state and calls for the cooperation of every citizen within the state." It is heartening to know that the sheriff has apparently decided definitely that state laws were violated by the raid. It will be remembered that shortly after the raid Sheriff MacDowell was quoted as indicating that he then had doubts whether there was any state law under which the raiders could be prosecuted. We are glad he has evidently changed his mind.

Outrages And Intolerable

(From The Birmingham News-Age-Herald)

Now this community should face the ugly and deeply disturbing fact that there are among us contemptible and cowardly men who, under cover of hoods and late in the night, seek to intimidate white women carrying out a constructive work for Negro girls.

The episode is horrifying. It should arouse the militant spirit of all decent, law-abiding people against any such outrageous actions or tendencies.

Responsible law enforcement officials should do their utmost to get at the bottom of this revolting incident and punish the guilty.

day that his investigation had begun. Chief Deputy Clyde Morris also was informed and promised a and vigorous investigation.

course of training, scheduled to end next Wednesday called off on instruction from national headquarters of the Girl Scouts.

of the white instructors was born in Montgomery, r home in Birmingham and has an office in Memhome of the other / Knoxville, Tenn. She works New York City.

l Girl Scout officials are, of course, deeply disover the development. So should be all good citizens. Scout leaders here say that no Southern principles ated at the camp. The students were being trained camp directors and counselors for Negro Girl Scout roughout the South.

such fine and helpful endeavors should be broken isguided, ignorant bigots is intolerable.

he forces of law and decency and enlightened pubon should be directed toward the condemnation and on of such influences and actions in this communi-

clared Friday Sheriff Clyde thorough and

The cour day was calle ters of the One of th makes her ho phis. The hor out of New Y

Two members of the national staff of the Girl Scouts were conducting a training course for Negro workers in the movement at a Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer. These instructors occupied a tent "at least 100 yards," it is declared, from the cottages occupied by the Negro women.

Near midnight, a group of hooded men surrounded the tent. Six or seven entered the tent of the white women and told them it was not "proper" for them to be within the boundaries of the camp. They asked if there were any men living in the camp. They were told there were not. The luggage and pocketbooks of the women were searched. They were told they must "get out of here" within 24 hours.

Regular classes were carried on the next morning (Friday) without further interference. Then the matter was reported to Girl Scout officials. In turn the incident was reported to Solicitor Sullinger of the Bessemer Cutoff. He de-

Camp Raid Investigation Findings Buried, Charge

The June 10 night raid on Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher has not been forgotten.

The Catholic Men's Club today made public a resolution charging that Gov. James E. Folsom has not seen fit to publish findings of his investigating committee regarding the unlawful entry."

The resolution also called upon county law enforcement officers to redouble their efforts to apprehend the guilty parties.

AN ESTIMATED 100 ROBED MEN entered the camp, a Negro Girl Scout camp seven miles southeast of Bessemer, the night of June 10 and ordered two white women instructors to get out of town. The camp, which was training Negro women as scout leaders, was closed the next day.

Gov. Folsom sent three state investigators to help local officers, but no report has been made public by the state men.

The full text of the resolution adopted by the Catholic Men's Club follows:

"Whereas, the governor of Alabama has not seen fit to publish the findings of his investigating committee regarding the unlawful entry of hooded men into the private, segregated sleeping quarters of the Girl Scouts at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher;

"Whereas, the Constitution of the United States guarantees 'The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures;'

"Whereas, these hooded men in this act of lawless terrorism took the law into their own hands in violation of these Constitutional rights;

"Whereas, the very commendable program of the Girl Scouts of America has been hampered seriously by this act of lawlessness not only in Jefferson County, but in the State of Alabama and throughout the South, bringing with it intolerable shame to all law abiding citizens, therefore be it resolved:

"That the Catholic Men's Club of Birmingham go on record as calling upon the law enforcement officers of Jefferson County to redouble their efforts to apprehend and bring to justice the guilty parties as an example to all other lawless gangs and groups, hooded or unhooded that the law abiding citizens of Jefferson County will never again tolerate such lawlessness."

At least 14 other church, civic, service and labor organizations have adopted resolutions asserting their condemnation of the raid.

Organizations Listed

The organizations include the Birmingham Council of Church Women, Birmingham Business and Professional Women's Club, Birmingham Industrial Union Council (CIO), Jefferson County Coordinating Council of Social Forces, Alabama Chapter of the American Association of Social Work.

The executive committee of the Birmingham Round Table of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; the Birmingham Baptist Pastors Conference, the Young Men's Business Club of Birmingham, the board of directors of the Community Chest, the Alabama Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

The Social Service Committee of the Birmingham Protestant Pastors Union, Birmingham Methodist Pastors Association, Council of the Girl Scouts of Jefferson County, and the Cottaquilla (Calhoun County) Girl Scout Council.

Girl Scouts ask U. S. probe of masked men invasion

NEW YORK — An investigation into a recent invasion of a Girl Scout national training camp in Alabama by masked men was asked this week by girl scout officials.

In a letter to Attorney General Tom S. Clark, Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, national director, asked that the investigation "be made on the grounds of unlawful entry and search and that, if possible, members of the masked and white robed group be identified and brought to justice."

She added that the Girl Scout organization "believes that its program should be open to all girls and, with the full support and cooperation of Southern members, is endeavoring to extend membership to the Negro race."

The communication followed invasion of Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher in Bessemer, Alabama by 12 masked white-robed men who searched white staff members, Miss Elizabeth Ijams and Miss Katrine Nickel, their personal belongings and quarters. The men said they were searching for "hammer and sickle" cards and demanded that the Camp be closed in 24 hours, because "folks around here don't like Negroes and whites living together."

While the 12 hooded men searched, approximately 100 other men waited on the camp site.

The camp was closed next day on the decision of the students.

Mrs. Rittenhouse said this action was taken after it was found that the Jefferson County Sheriff could supply only two deputies for protection.

The national director said the training course which was for Negro camp directors and counselors was being conducted according to Alabama statutes, with the white instructors housed in the main loge and the Negro executives and students quartered in barracks some 100 yards away.

Miss Nickel and Miss Ijams, in consultation with local members of the Birmingham Girl Scout Council and their inter-racial advisory committee, reported immediately to the Jefferson County Sheriff, telling him of the unauthorized entry onto the camp site of the masked men and asking him for police protection for the staff and student personnel of the courses.

Scouts Demand Investigation Of Camp Raid

NEW YORK, June 24—(UP)—The Girl Scouts of America announced today it had filed a complaint with the U. S. Attorney General asking for a full Federal investigation of the raid June 11 on a training camp for Negro girls near Bessemer, Ala.

A number of men, wearing white hoods and sheets, invaded the camp at 11 p. m. and questioned two white girls conducting the course for some 20 Negro Girl Scouts. They warned the directors to "get out" and the white girls sent the Negro girls home the next day.

Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, National Director, also issued a resolution passed today by the National Executive Committee which said:

"It will continue to be the policy of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to serve all their members regardless of race or creed and to extend membership as rapidly as possible to all those who wish to join. We shall continue our countrywide program of training adults for leadership and shall provide for this purpose the best available instructors drawn from local groups and the national staff."

A Demand For Action

The demand for punishment of the hooded night-riders who recently raided the private and segregated sleeping quarters of white Girl Scout leaders at a camp near Bessemer is unabated by the apparent lack of effective investigation and action by some public authorities. The latest organization to add its voice of condemnation to the illegal outrage is the Birmingham Industrial Union Council (CIO). In its resolution, the Council calls upon law enforcement officers to "redouble their efforts to apprehend these bedsheet gangsters."

The raid by the hooded and masked band took place four weeks ago tonight. It is estimated that around a hundred men participated in the raid. Six or seven of them went into the hut where two white Girl Scout instructors were sleeping and searched the women's baggage. The members of the mob wore regalia of some organization.

In the light of these facts, it is hardly conceivable that evidence leading to identification of the criminals cannot be uncovered by authorities determined to "crack" the case. The public will not rest content until this is done.

There's A Question

To the Editor of The N[illegible]

Could the law enforcement officers of Jefferson County run down the participants of a mob of Negroes who go to a white man's house and stage an act such as the one by the hooded hoodlums a few weeks ago out there in Bessemer on the grounds of the Negro Girl Scouts? That's a question which I think should be of interest to every decent-minded man and woman of Jefferson County. And the question arises: Why have not those hoodlums been run down and brought to justice? Is it that the people of Jefferson County approve of such action? Don't hand me that stuff, brother. Alabama surely doesn't have such counties as that.

I acknowledge that some Negro leaders are interested not only in civil rights, but in social equality as well. But I also acknowledge that they can be given civil rights and social equality in their own ranks, together with segregation between whites and blacks the same as in the past. And whether we like it or not, the Negro is going to educate himself, either with or without our assistance. I used to hold what I considered advanced ideas on the subject of Negro's rights. But today I find so many agreeing with me that I feel out of place not to be considered a dangerous character. So many intelligent white people today acknowledge that the Negro should have a right to vote and equal rights in education that I feel just a regular guy now, instead of "Oh, that wild-eyed radical!"

I think we should build and equip schools for the Negroes equal to those of the whites, and at the same time build schools for the whites until every deserving boy or girl has a chance at college education. For only by educating the whites of the South can we hope to prevent the dream of Booker T. Washington from coming true, that of the Negro eventually gaining control of the South. Unless the whites of the lower-income brackets are lifted above the average Negro, which is not the case today, concerning education, the dream of Washington can easily become a reality and the business man and professional man of the South won't look any bigger to the Negro than the poor fellow with a fourth-grade education. Men like Bull Connor and his friends, men who place white people in jail for attending meetings because Negroes were present, men who subscribe to the philosophy of giving the Negro enough education to write his name and change a dollar, will certainly be remembered. But I would fight shoulder to shoulder with and just as hard as Bull Connor against the entrance of Negroes into public schools with the whites of the South. W. P. HUDGINS.

P. O. Box 832, Huntsville, Ala.

Is The Raid Case Breaking?

The public has it on the word of Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael that the identity of the leaders of the Bessemer Girl Scout camp raid is "pretty well known and will be revealed in due time." The statement is heartening to the people of Alabama who have not wanted their state to remain sullied by an unsolved raid of hooded and masked men on the segregated sleeping quarters of white women instructors in a Negro Girl Scout leadership training camp.

It is time some report of progress was being made in solution of the case. The raid happened on the night of June 10, close to three months ago. Since then there have been statements condemning the raid by the sheriff, the solicitor, and others. There was one official report on the case by the sheriff's office in Bessemer that quoted at length statements justifying the masked raiders who invaded the private sleeping quarters of the two women. A report by special investigators to Gov. Folsom has never been made public.

There should be no great surprise that their identity. The wonder is that their be known. Scores, or perhaps even a hundred men, cannot participate in a raid like that without leaving some evidence of their identify. The wonder is that their identity has not been revealed long since.

But Mr. Carmichael speaks of a report on the case "in due time." A public long patient in the matter thinks it is "due time" about now. It will await eagerly further steps in the matter. The public conscience of this community will not rest at ease until the raiders are indicted and tried.

Mob Rule And Constitution

To the Editor of The News:

The recent outrage perpetrated by hooded hoodlums in the Bessemer area is an affront a challenge to the spirit and intent of good government throughout the world. The righteous indignation of all fair-minded people of our state is aroused by those rash acts of the slit-faced monsters who through the spirit of ignorance and mob rule, flout, barter and trample the constitutional intent of good government on which we rely for guidance and inspiration under the democratic system of government.

When an ignorant mob of hooded parasites take the law into their own hands in defiance of constituted law, that is time for the aroused law enforcement agencies and the citizenry to step in. The hoodlums should be exposed to the public and prosecuted to the full extent and spirit of the constitutional provisions of our state. Speaker Beck, for one, stands out as an individual lawmaker whose better instincts of law and order are aroused by the hooded mob of petty gangsters.

Our good citizens experience a feeling of gloom and despair over this betrayal of justice, and the thought that our good name is again subjected to ridicule throughout the civilized world. Let us bring that lawless mob before the bar of justice, and expose the lowly vermin to the human judgment of those who have struggled so valiantly to protect and uphold the name of our state. There is no room in our civilized society for those traitors to the spirit and intent of sound reasoning. Revoke their charters (if any) and remove their heinous hoods and bear witness to the world, that we, in Alabama, have a constitution we intend to uphold and protect.

As an Alabamian at heart and in mind, allow me to emphasize that I shall never sacrifice the human principle of soliciting the action of our laws when I feel that a Southern tradition is being violated. I shall always ask our law enforcement agencies to determine if the suspected violations are punishable within the framework of our constitution. If not, I shall at all times never resort to mob rule as a means of bringing restitution to the aggrieved. We might as well discard the law if we are not going to abide by the human provisions the law sets forth.

In traveling over America, I have had the privilege and honor of defending our good name in numerous instances in a human and convincing manner, but in the present circumstances, where our entire nation knows about the lowly acts of treachery committed by the hooded mob, there is little that can be said. Honesty and conscience demands that I join in the condemnation of this act, lest I become a traitor to the principles of sound judgment.

KYZER STEWART,
Demopolis, Ala.

* * *

He Will Fight

To the Editor of The News:

My purpose in writing this editorial is to discuss W. P. Hudgins opinions which were published in the July 7th issue of this newspaper.

Hudgins seems to be upset about the raid on the Negro Girl Scout camp. He asks if the police would arrest a Negro or group of Negroes if they should break into a white man's home. The answer would, of course, be yes. Should a white man or group of white men break into the home of a Negro the answer would still be yes. Hudgins should make some investigation of his own or refrain from telling the police officers of Jefferson County how to run their business. If he or anyone has any concrete evidence, I am sure our police officers will make any arrests or investigation that is justified.

We have a board that offers anyone the right to vote—if he is qualified. The Negroes who have been denied the right to vote have proved themselves unfit or they would be registered as all good Southern people are.

I agree that the Negro schools in the South are poor. I also know of the conditions that prevail in the Northern schools which allow white and black to mix. The Negro schools can be and are being improved without federal legislation.

Thousands of people were shocked last week when they were informed of the sad plight confronting the nation if legislation proposed by the major political parties of this great nation is written into the lawbooks of our homeland. We have been warned of the danger of the Fair Employment Practice Commission and other legislation of this type. We are going to fight until we have licked any such legislation as this or until we have been stripped of any possible means of combatting such evil. We must support this fight with everything we have or face a fate worse than anything we have ever known.

B. L. CAWTHORN,
1011-C Airport Hills.

Girl Scout Officials Defy Hate Mob

NEW YORK — Despite the invasion of a Girl Scouts training camp near Bessemer, Ala., on June 11 by a masked and robed mob, officials of the organization refuse to be intimidated, it was learned this week, when they announced that they would continue to conduct training centers of the kind throughout the country.

The camp was ordered broken up by the men after two white women instructors had been searched and told that the residents of the area "don't like Negroes and whites living together." Unpleasant rumors were later circulated about the camp and its occupants, all of which were Negroes except the two instructors.

The stand of the national office was expressed in a resolution adopted by the officers and members of the national executive committee on June 24. The resolution follows:

"It will continue to be the policy of the Girl Scouts . . . to serve all their members regardless of race or creed, and to extend membership as rapidly as possible to all those who wish to join. We will continue our country-wide program of training adults for leadership and shall provide for this purpose the best available instructors drawn from local groups and the national staff."

Shortly after the incident in Alabama, the national director called on Attorney General Tom Clark to investigate the affair, but no reply has been received from the Justice Department up to this time.

The camp site near Bessemer was rented for the occasion by the Girl Scouts and is not a Girl Scout camp as such. Its invasion by the hooded mob was "completely unwarranted," officials of the organization said this week, and subsequent rumors spread about the occupants "have been carefully checked and found totally false."

Scouts Profit By Birth Hike

NEW YORK — The unprecedented birthrate increases of the war years are making the job of Girl Scouts, colored and white, of the U. S. A. the biggest in its 36-year history, according to a statement by Mrs. C. Vaughan Ferguson, Girl Scout National President, in the Organization's annual report issued this week.

Millions of Girls, colored and white, born during the war are now reaching Brownie Scout age (7 through 9 years). By 1950 there will be 14 million girls 7 through 17 years of age and eligible for membership in Girl Scouts of the U. S. A. To achieve its goal to offer Girl Scouting to every girl who wants to join, the organization must tremendously expand its membership, immediatey among Brownie Scouts and in a very few years to the older Girl Scout and Senior Scout groups.

The report stated that in 1947 Girl Scout Membership had increased 19 per cent, the largest gain since the war. Total membership, all racial groups, was 1,409,680 girls and adults. Brownie Scouts 394,321; Girl Scouts 634,697; Senior Scouts 63,195; and 317,467 adult members. There were 60,671 scout troops in approximately 10,000 communities in every state and the United States possessions.

Of all Girl Scout activities, the report stated, homemaking again in 1947 proved most popular. In November, 1947, an entirely new field of activity, Agriculture, was opened to Girl Scouts who may now earn proficiency badges in such subjects as beekeeping, dairying, conservation, poultry raising. Among new badges in other fields introduced in 1947 is the radio badge designed to help young people become discriminating radio listeners.

44 1948

Girls

National Girl Scout Head Seeks FBI Action

Memphis World
Memphis, Tenn.

NEW YORK—(NNPA)—Attorney General Tom Clark was called on Thursday to order a FBI investigation of the invasion of a Girl Scouts training camp near Bessemer, Alabama, by a group of masked and robed white men, who ordered two white counselors at the camp to get out of town because "folks around here don't like Negroes and whites living together." Jun. 6-22

The request for the investigation was made by Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, national director of the Girl Scouts.

The two instructors were Miss Katrine Nickel, of Birmingham, and Miss Elizabeth Ijams, of Knoxville Tennessee. Jun. 6-22-48

In her letter to the Attorney General, Mrs. Rittenhouse pointed out that the National Girl Scouts Headquarters believes that its program should be open to all girls, and "with the full support and cooperation of Southern members, is endeavoring to extend membership to the Negro race."

LITTLE PROTECTION

Mrs. Rittenhouse informed Mr. Clark that the Bessemer camp had been closed the next day after the incident because the Jefferson County sheriff could only supply the camp with two deputies for protection, although the camp was being conducted in accordance with Alabama law which requires that colored and white persons occupy separate living quarters. While instructors occupied the main lodge of the camp while colored trainees, were housed some 100 yards away.

The letter informed the Attorney General that when the two women were given an ultimatium by the masked group to close the camp by 11 o'clock that evening, they did not protest because they feared bodily harm. would

They reported the matter to the Jefferson County Sounty sheriff and asked him for protection. According to Mrs. Rittenhouse , he referred them to the County Solicitor. The letter continued:

"The Soliciter stated that the previous day he had received a telephone call to the effect that interracial camping was being done on the Fletcher site. He had called Birmingham Executive Director Mrs. Atony Constans, to verify the story. Mrs. Constans had informed him that the camp was not interracial, but that it was a national training school for Negroes and that the national staff instructors were white. The Solicitor had then dropped the investigation.

NO FBI HELP

"Simultaneously with the appeal to the Jefferson County Sheriff, the Girl Scout national staff memacts as director for the region covering Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee, telephoned the Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to ask what federal protection was available to the camp.

"The assistant agent in charge informed her that the FBI did not offer protection as one of its services, but that this was left to local constabularies. He stated that the FBI merely investigated when presumably a federal law had been violated, and that it took 'appropriate action' as directed by the Attorney General of the United States in the event that a federal law was involved."

"Miss Amerman asked the agent if unlawful entry and search was a violation of federal law and he replied that such an opinion was within the province of the Attorney General of the United States only and that he could not render an opinion. He then directed Miss Amerman to ask Miss Nickel to contact the Birmingham agent in charge of the FBI, giving his name, address and telephone number."

Mrs. Rittenhouse said the Birmingham agent was of the opinion that the masked men were not a local group, but a part of some larger group.

POINTING EVIDENCE

"He did not say whether he thought it was a state-wide, Birmingham citizenry, on a Southern regional organization," the letter added. "To date no one has definitely ascertained whether the men were members of the KU Klux Klan, but every evidence points in that direction."

Mrs. Rittenhouse said the County Solicitor stated that he would offer police protection but that he disliked risking the safety of two of his deputies with such a large crowd.

"Because it was not possible to guarantee the safety of either students or instructors and because of the difficulty of arranging accomodations for training courses of between 20 and 30 persons at short notice, the course was cancelled and students have returned home," the letter said.

Terror By Night

Birmingham Mirror

Writer Scores Attempt To Intimidate Two White Women At Bessemer Girl Scout Camp

BY FRED TAYLOR

Back home after a brief vacation, I find the Jefferson County air reeking with the stench of hooded terrorism.

It is not only here. The smell has gone out over the land. It is not pleasant. Birmingham, Ala.

TAYLOR

These masked marauders, who moved under the cover of late night to terrorize and intimidate two white women instructors attempting to carry on Girl Scout work for Negroes, have been characterized as "misguided, ignorant bigots." The fact that their faces were hidden by hoods marks them as something worse.

Jack. 6-15-48

NEED FOR EXTERMINATOR — This hooded band, lamentably enough, not only has succeeded in breaking up an instruction course for Negro women so that they, in turn, might train Negro girls in Scout work. They have broken up the Negro Girl Scout camp, which was to have been opened Thursday at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher.

Here, under sponsorship of the Council of Girl Scouts of Jefferson County, an organization of white women leaders of this community, an attempt was being made to train Negro girls to become useful citizens.

Here the white people of the South were doing what we have learned more and more that we must do — train Negroes to help solve racial problems without interference from outside meddlers and trouble-makers.

Then the nocturnal gang moved in to disrupt this thoroughly American, completely Southern training program.

It is high time for people generally who stand for law and decency—and, happily, a great majority do—to put the exterminator to these hooded roamers of the night.

* * *

WHITE WOMEN DETERMINED—Even though the white women leaders who make up the Girl Scout Council were forced to abandon camping activities for this Summer at Camp Fletcher, they resolved to continue plans to provide adequate facilities for Negro Girl Scout camping in the future. 6-15-48

Citizens of this county should rally behind them in this endeavor. And, certainly, a large majority will.

It was emphasized that the training course was not abandoned because there was anything wrong about such a camp. The women made it plain the real reason was that Girl Scout standards of safety prevent allowing girls to face even possible danger or mistreatment.

Council Of Girl Scouts Calls On Sheriff's Office To Investigate Incident

Birmingham News
Mon. 6-14-48

Atty. Abe Berkowitz Moves After Incident At Girl Scout Camp; Local Council Meeting Is Held To Review 'Inquisition By Flashlight'

The "inquisition by flashlight" of two white women instructors at a Negro Girl Scout leaders' school brought demand for action on two separate fronts today.

1. The Council of Girl Scouts of Jefferson County, Inc., demanded that Sheriff Holt A. McDowell investigate the incident.

2. The council also demanded that "constituted authorities" furnish protection of the Negro Girl Scout training program in the future.

The council is scheduled to start on Thursday a training course for local Girl Scout leaders at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, where the two white women instructors were subjected to a late-night ordeal by a band of hooded, masked intruders Thursday night.

3. A Birmingham attorney demanded that the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klans, Inc., an Alabama corporation be revoked.

The attorney, Abe Berkowitz, wrote State Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael a letter asking the state official to start proceedings at once to revoke the Klan's charter. Mon. 6-14-48

Atty. Berkowitz, in a letter to the editor of The News, declared he would institute quo warranto proceedings to revoke the Klan's charter as a private citizen himself, if the attorney general failed to take action.

Atty. Berkowitz declared the attorney general had power to take such a course because the Klan "exists for no lawful or useful purpose." The K. K. K. took out papers as an Alabama corporation two years ago.

The attorney's statements came as the Council of Girl Scouts of Jefferson County, Inc., met this morning and heard a complete report from the two white women instructors at a Negro Girl Scout leaders' school on what happened in their tent at the school camp last Thursday night.

George King, special agent in charge of the Birmingham office of far."

Inquisition By Flashlight' Details

DETAILS OF THE "inquisition by flashlight" were told council the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reiterated he had "no comment" members at a meeting in the Red Cross Building, Fifth Avenue and North 20th Street, by the two women instructors, Miss Katrine Nickel, 39, Birmingham, and Miss Elizabeth Ijams, 39, Knoxville, Tenn. Both women have been professional Girl Scout workers for the past 18 years.

Meanwhile, possibility of an investigation of the incident by the U. S. district attorney's office here faded. Col. John D. Hill, the district attorney, said "no federal question has been involved so

on the matter today.
Miss Nickel made a report of the disturbance to Mr. King's office

Birmingham News

Take Out Papers, Charge

ATTY. BERKOWITZ listed R. S. Gulledge, Dr. E. P. Pruitt and William Hugh Morris as the three persons taking out the Klan's incorporation papers.

Morris, secretary-treasurer of the organization, told The News Saturday there was no law against wearing of hoods at "Klan functions."

He also declared he felt the two white women should not have been sleeping in the camp area, where the incident occurred, at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, seven miles southeast of Bessemer.

Today, Morris said he intended going to Bessemer to talk with members of what he said was a Klan there to try to determine if members of the organization were involved in the inciden at the Negro camp.

The two women instructors were sleeping in a tent a block or more from where the 22 Negro Girl Scout students at the school were housed when some 100 or more hooded, robed men invaded the camp Thursday night.

Mrs. L. E. Geohegan, Girl Scout commissioner for Jefferson County, had charge of the council session.

Sheriff Holt McDowell said again today he knew of no law under which an arrest could be made in the case, but that he is having his attorney, Evans Dunn, check into the legal aspects of the case "to see if there's anything we can travel on."

The meeting was ready to draw up a complete report of the incident for submission to the New York national office of Girl Scouts, Inc.

Miss Hams planned to return to her home at Knoxville after the meeting. Miss Nickel expected to go to Memphis, her regional Girl Scout office, about the middle of the week.

Meanwhile, county officers investigating the the appearance of some 100 hooded and robed men at the Negro Girl Scout camp said "nothing new" has developed.

* * * 6-14-48

Sheriffs Investigate-

CHIEF DEPUTY SHERIFF CLYDE MORRIS, at Bessemer, said he and Deputy E. M. Veitch planned to talk with residents of the camp area again today in an effort to uncover information that might lead to identification of some members of the band that invaded the Girl Scout camp last Thursday night.

So far no identifying evidence has been gathered by the chief deputy nor by Howard Sullinger, circuit solicitor for the Bessemer Cutoff, who is also investigating the incident.

The camp caretaker reported seeing some 18 cars containing 100 men or more at the camp last Thursday night.

Solicitor Sullinger said the next session of the Bessemer Grand Jury will be held Sept. 20.

Any evidence uncovered regarding the incident will be presented to the Grand Jury, he said.

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE—The Birmingham News publishes below in full two letters it believes all the people of Birmingham and Alabama would do well to read. One of these letters was written to the editor of The News, the other was written to the attorney general of the State of Alabama. They were written by A. Berkowitz, a Birmingham attorney:

* * *

The Editor,
Birmingham News,
Birmingham, Alabama.
Dear Sir:

I assume that every decent citizen of this city experienced a cold chill when he read the headlines in your paper Saturday morning: "Hooded Men Invade White Girls' Tent."

I assume, further, that, in addition to concern and apprehension, every decent citizen of this community felt, as I did, a wave of indignation, disgust and rage pass through him as he read the newspaper account of how cowardly bullies threatened two defenseless girls who are engaged in work for an organization of which we are all proud, the Girl Scouts.

I assume that the publisher of your paper, whose predecessor led the fight to put an end to this sort of thing in the '20s, felt similarly.

I assume that the responsible law enforcement officers of this city and county know that crimes were committed under our statutes when these cowards threatened the young ladies, searched their luggage and pocketbooks and ordered them to leave the city and, with that assumption, follows naturally, another, that they will be vigorous to investigate and prosecute the offenders.

I assume that the ministers and priests and rabbis of this city will recognize in this incident (and its implications) the kind of thing which they must denounce and I assume further that they will use their great influence to bring about such a revulsion of feeling against this terror that good men everywhere in our county, whatever their faith, will feel morally charged to lend their efforts to bring a halt to such occurrences.

Unless we begin immediately to mobilize all the decency inherent in our community, we will reap a harvest of hatred, strife and bitterness, the scars of which will not soon disappear.

This is the Nazi terror in an American setting!

Some few days ago, Mr. John Temple Graves, in his column in The Birmingham Post, expressed his gratification, following a similar incident of this kind, that the "official" Ku Klux Klan had disclaimed any connection with the incident and had offered a reward of $100 reward for the arrest and conviction of those who purported to be Klan members. It is that type of muddled thinking that has helped lead us into the prevent pass. 6-15-48

The "official" Ku Klux Klan itself is a menace and should be stamped out. Their disclaimer that no members of their organization participated in the incident is subject, at the least, to grave doubt and, in any event, almost impossible to disprove. The activities of both the so-called "official" and "unofficial" group are un-American, cowardly and contemptible.

It is not very easy for 100 men to assemble and pass through our streets, wearing hoods and regalia, without being detected. When a miserable handful of whites and Negroes attempted to hold a meeting for some sort of Congress a few weeks ago, there were enough officers and deputies on hand to constitute a full military company. I suggest that they be similarly alert for the gathering of the Klan, official or unofficial.

For my own part, I do not propose to rest with this simple letter. I intend to keep on writing these letters so long and as often as you will receive and print them. In addition, I have written to the attorney general of this state, with a copy to the solicitor of this county, Hon. Emmett Perry, suggesting to him that the charter of the Ku Klux Klan be revoked in quo warranto proceedings. If he fails to do so, then I, as a private citizen, intend to institute such proceedings. 6-14-48

To the young ladies who were so threatened, maltreated and abused, I wish to state that it is my opinion that any member of the Bar (knowing the members as I do) will, without charge and at their own expense, represent them in an action which may lie against the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., if they were responsible. In such proceedings, it would be soon ascertained whether it was the official or unofficial group which participated in this incident. I am further confident that any member of the Bar will, on request, gladly render to any citizen of this community, Negro or white, Jew, Protestant or Catholic, his services as an attorney and his aid as a private citizen in connection with any threat or intimidation of him by the Klan or any group, official Klan members or not, who were hoods and violated the law as the group did in this last incident.

With respect to this last statement, I want to state that i is no an assumption. I know that the people in my communiy are decen, kind and tolerant. That knowledge is based on observation and personal experience. Though they are sometimes slow to act, I am confident that they will recognize the danger to themselves, their neighbors and their friends in this sorry out-cropping of cowardly lawlessness carried on by craven, sneaking, dastardly, pusillanimous un-Americans, and will join hands in an effort to put a prompt end to it.

For your interest or publication, a copy of the letter this day addressed to the attorney general is encolsed.

Very truly yours.
A. BERKOWITZ.

* * *

Hon. Alert A. Carmichael,
Attorney General of the State of Alabama,
Montgomery, Alabama. Birmingham News
Dear Mr. Carmichael:

It has no doubt come to your attention, through the public press and otherwise, that, in the past several months, gangs of hooded men have, on several occasions, threatened and intimidated members of our community. The activities of these cowards have been similar to the notorious and infamous conduct of the Ku Klux Klan of the '20s.

This recent activity has been coincident, in point of time, with the formation of a corporation known as the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., which organization was granted a charter by the state of Alabama on July 16, 1946. The articles of incorporation appear on record in Volume 66 at Page 541 in the office of the Judge of Probate of Jefferson County, Alabama. The names of the original incorporators, and their addresses, as stated in the certificate, are:

William Hugh Morris, 831 North 29th Street, Birmingham, Alabama.

R. S. Gulledge, 1331 Fourth Court, West, Birmingham, Alabama.

Dr. E. P. Pruitt, 1611 North 15tth Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

Among other things, the articles of incorporation state that "the objects and purposes of the corporation shall be the teaching of loyalty to our American institutions, the constitution and all constitutional laws of the United States and the stae of Alabama."

Following he several icidents which have been publicly reported in the press, the head of this corporation, William Hugh Morris, has made the disclaimer that the members of his organization were involved in these incidents. Because of the secrecy of the organization ,and the manner in which it goes about its work, it would be comparatively simple for it, or its members, to be responsible for these lawless outbreaks while, at the same time, denying its responsibility therefor or participation therein. The close relationship between their occurence, the time in which they have occurred and the activities of the so-called corporation, its officers and members, would lead to the minimum conclusion that it ought to be made the subject of close investigation. In addition, the history of the Ku Klux Klan in the past, and its activities in this state during the 20s, would also lead to a normal assumption that there may well be a connection between the things that are occurring and the organization which denies responsibility for them.

Furthermore, it is my considered opinion that the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., no matter how laudable the statement of its aims, exists for no lawful or useful purpose and, on the contrary, may well exist for purposes directly contrary to the objects stated in its charter.

As chief law enforcement officer of this state, you have plenary power under the statutes of the state of Alabama to institute proceedings to revoke its charter. I call to your atention particularly he provisions of Section 1133, Title 7 of the 1940 Code of Alabama, with which you are no doubt familiar. Knowing you as I do, I am certain you will give seribus consideration to this request, made to you in my capacity as a private citizen, and am confident that you will make a thorough investigation of the unlawful activity that is intimidating our citizenry. I know that it is offensive and abhorrent to the decent citizens of our city and county.

Sincerely yours,
A. BERKOWITZ

AB/mr
Copy to: Hon. Emmett Perry,
Solicitor's Office, Courthouse.

Mar. 6-14-48

Birmingham, Alabama.

* * *

The following resolution was adopted by the Council of the Girl Scouts of Jefferson County:

"The Council of the Girl Scouts of Jefferson County and corporation views with grave concern the attack upon law and order and the rights of all citizens, and the violence and threats perpetrated upon its members by a hooded and uniformed group of men at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher Thursday, June 10, 1948.

"The council calls upon the constituted authorities for investigation of this lawless act, for ascertainment, apprehension, and prosecution of the offenders and for full protection to the council and all of its representatives and to all the children participating in its program and Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher and elsewhere in the county.

"The council reaffirms its confidence in the program and high standards of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America and expresses its appreciation of the aid and support which the national organization has always given to the work in this area.

"The council reaffirms its intention to support its Inter-racial Committee and to continue its program among Negro girls in Jefferson County within the framework of local law as has been its custom.

"The council calls upon citizens of good will and responsibility in Jefferson County to share with it the alarm it feels over the attack upon American rights and institutions which was involved in the incident of June 10, and to make known to the constituted officials their unalterable opposition to and concern over what has taken place and their insistence that the rule of law shall be maintained."

Girl Scout Camp Raid Attacked From Pulpit

The night raid on a Negro Girl Scout camp by a band of hooded, masked men drew an attack from the pulpit here yesterday.

The Rev. Hall Barrett, pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, declared the disturbance was "upsetting and confusing."

"We must have faith in God, rather than faith in strong-arm methods," the Rev. Barrett declared. The minister said the civil authorities should take steps to prevent a similar incident in this community.

* * *

THE LEGAL SPOTLIGHT in investigation of the disturbance, which occurred the night of June 10 at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, near Bessemer, centered on State Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael's office in Montgomery.

The attorney general was expected to issue a statement today or tomorrow giving his reply to a request from Abe Berkowitz, Birmingham attorney, that proceedings be launched at once to revoke the state charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc.

Mr. Berkowitz has stated he will initiate such proceedings himself should the attorney general's office fail to take action.

Mr. Berkowitz said he has received two telephone calls criticizing him for his efforts to drive the Klan out of Birmingham and Alabama.

One of these calls threatened his life, the attorney said.

Mr. Berkowitz quoted the caller, who would not give his name over the telephone, as saying the attorney would be "bumped off" if the city adopted ordinances Mr. Berkowitz has recommended for adoption.

Let The Public Know

Two weeks have passed since it was reported that the special investigation ordered by Gov. Folsom into the Bessemer Girl Scout raid had been completed and that the investigators had filed a statement with the state's chief executive. So far Gov. Folsom has not seen fit to release the statement or any comment on it.

Is the governor also adopting a policy of silence regarding the facts of this illegal and infamous and dangerous raid by a mob of masked and robed men upon the segregated sleeping quarters of white instructors at the Negro Girl Scout camp? The state's attorney general has yet made no public statement regarding the raid. Except for initial declarations condemning the raid by the county sheriff and the circuit solicitor, and an obviously one-sided report by the chief deputy sheriff at Bessemer, the public has not been let in on the results of official investigations into the matter.

Can't the public be trusted to know the facts of the raid as unearthed by officials in these seven weeks since the crime was committed? Doesn't the governor trust the people enough to tell them what his special investigators found out? Couldn't we be informed whether authorities are still working on the case, and to what extent? Isn't this, after all, the public's business?

Public concern over the raid will not, and should not, be quieted. The Catholic Men's Club of Birmingham is the latest of nearly a score of organizations that have adopted formal resolutions condemning the raid and calling upon authorities to apprehend the criminals. The club's resolution calls attention to the fact that Gov. Folsom has not seen fit to publish the findings of his investigating committee, and urges county authorities to redouble their efforts to bring to justice the guilty persons "as an example to all other lawless gangs and groups, hooded or unhooded, that the law-abiding citizens of Jefferson County will never again tolerate such lawlessness."

This matter should not be permitted to rest until either the perpetrators of the crime are punished or the public is satisfied that officers of the law have done all they could to solve the crime.

Voice Of The People

Not Disgraceful

To the Editor of The News:

There has been so much comment on the "Scout affair" in Bessemer I want to have my say. If a few of these people who have been writing to The Birmingham News low-rating our entire city and county about this thing could live on the route or in the community, they probably would understand why people in that vicinity don't think it was so disgraceful.

In that section of the county the best of colored people live. They are clean, honest, hard working and are striving to give their children an education. Most of them and their elders have been in the community for years and years. Most of them own their own homes. They tend their farms and work at public works just as the white man in the community does. They have their churches, with fine pastors; they have their schools, the best in the county. They had their fun as well as their work until city Negroes had to interfere. These city Negroes would come down in droves hollering and interrupting services and families all along the way. They would belittle the Negro in that community by putting on the "dog," as they call it.

This camp, as I understand it, is supposed to be for underprivileged Negroes as the one on the mountain is for underprivileged white children, but it certainly wasn't used for that class Negro, nor Scout Negroes. Any Negro in the community will tell you he is glad the camp has had a rejuvenating. Now the Negroes it was originally intended to serve can be served. SARAH McADORY.

Bessemer, Ala., Route 3.

Whom Do They Serve?

The Girl Scout Council of Jefferson County issued a strong statement when 30 days had passed since the hooded mob raid on its camp near Bessemer and not a single arrest had been made or any signs given of progress toward solution of the crime. In many ways that statement represents the views of the public.

The council finds itself "baffled" by the "apparent" inability of officials to bring the offenders to justice. It wonders if "personal attitudes" or "official indifferences" are responsible for a "seeming neglect" of duty. It expresses the hope that results will soon be obtained and "punishment of this lawlessness will follow shortly." These feelings are widely shared.

No fewer than 14 organizations of the community have adopted resolutions condemning this hooded raid and calling for punishment of the guilty. Membership in these organizations is a cross-section of good forces in the community. Included are church groups, labor organizations, women's clubs, veterans' bodies and service clubs. They all have raised their voice in appeal that the hooded and robed gangsters be brought to justice.

Do law enforcement agencies and officials not recognize the force of this sentiment? Do they not realize the public opinion that lies behind these expressions? Do not such people count more with them than the misguided persons who lurk behind disguise and do not realize that unlawful acts never accomplish permanent good?

Are not the sheriff, the solicitor and the attorney general and all their assistants bound by greater obligation to the good citizens of the community, as found in the groups supporting the Girl Scouts, than to citizens who find it necessary to hide their identity? To whom are public officials responsible for investigating the outrage against the Girl Scouts? Is it not to the citizens of the community who work in the open rather than those who violate laws in secrecy by night?

The public is looking for further and persistent work in this case. It will continue to look until results are achieved.

Girl Scouts Officials Defy Dixie Hate Mob

NEW YORK — Despite the invasion of a Girl Scouts training camp near Bessemer, Ala., on June 11 by a band of masked and robbed men, officials of the organization refuse to be intimidated. They announced last week that they would continue to conduct training centers of the kind throughout the country.

The camp was ordered broken up by the men after the two white women instructors had been searched and told that the residents of the area "don't like Negroes and whites living together." The instructors were quartered in the main lodge of the camp while colored trainees were 100 yards away in accordance with the Alabama law.

The stand of the national office was expressed in a resolution adopted by the officers and members of the national committee on June 24. The resolution follows:

TO SERVE ALL RACES

"It will continue to be the policy of the Girl Scouts . . . to serve all their members regardless of race or creed, and to extend membership as rapidly as possible to all those who wish to join. We shall continue our country-wide program of training adults for leadership and shall provide for this purpose the best available instructors drawn from local groups and the national staff."

NO FBI REPLY

Shortly after the incident in Alabama, the national director called on Attorney General Tom Clark to investigate the affair, but no reply has yet been received from the Justice Department.

The camp site near Bessemer was rented for the occasion by the Girl Scouts and is not a Girl Scout camp as such. Its invasion by the hooded mob was "completely unwarranted," officials said and subsequent rumors spread about the occupants "have been carefully checked and found to be totally false."

they were told of it.

The course, scheduled to end next Wednesday, was cancelled on orders from national headquarters a Girl Scouts, Inc., a spokesman for the Red Cross in Birmingham said.

'Hooded' Threat Women Report

(The Associated Press)

Bessemer, Ala., June 12.—Circuit Solicitor Howard Sullinger said last night he had been informed that a group of robed and hooded men went to a Negro Girl Scout camp near here and ordered two white women instructors at the camp were not "proper" for white women to be within boundaries of a camp with Negro women.

After searching their baggage and pocketbooks, the women said, the men told them to "get out of town within 24 hours."

They were ordered not mo

The Negro women attending the course, of the incident, until

Sullinger said Misses Katrine Nickel of Birmingham and Elizabeth Ijams, Memphis, told him an estimated 100 men, dressed in white robes and wearing high-pointed hoods, arrived in camp about 11 o'clock in 20 automobiles. The camp is located several miles from here.

Sullinger quoted the two women as saying the men came into unaware of

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On the contrary, it must be made absolutely clear that any such cowardly, contemptible and profoundly unjust and unrighteous procedure will be effectively dealt with under the law, that the guilty will be relentlessly sought and that sure and adequate punishment will follow.

Is it conceivable that any other public and official policy should prevail and be accepted by our people?

Consider what stimulus and encouragement would be given to hooded mobsters, intent on taking the law into their own hands, if they were permitted to think that such things are, in fact, within the law, or above the law. 6-15-48

Of course, that is the philosophy which actuates those who would resort to such foul means to advance their ends—the philosophy that they are justified in taking certain matters and situations into their own hands. That is the way lynchers think. Surely we must not give any encouragement, official or otherwise, to such evil ideas, to such incalculably dangerous actions and tendencies.

Birmingham * News

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Sheriff Holt McDowell has said that he knew of no law under which an arrest could be made in the case. He says he is having his attorney check that phase of the matter.

Could it be that there is no illegal trespassing or intimidation involved in a monstrous thing of this kind? What about breaking into and entering by night? What about interfering with others in their lawful pursuits?

That the two white women, in giving instruction to Negro students for Girl Scout leadership, were engaged not only in a lawful but a constructive activity is obvious.

Anyone aware of familiar patterns of living of long standing in the South must realize that the mere fact that the white instructors occupied a tent within the camp does not violate Southern principles and traditions. Tues. 6-15-48

Solicitor Sullinger, of the Bessemer Cutoff, says that any evidence uncovered in connection with the incident will be presented to the Bessemer Grand Jury, the next session of which is scheduled for Sept. 20. Would this be prompt enough action for so grave and ugly a threat to the life of this community as has now been presented? How about a special Grand Jury session?

This community, its officials, its leaders in all spheres of responsible citizenship, all its upstanding, law-abiding people should unite in utmost endeavor to strike down this intolerable menace at once.

An attitude on the part of law-enforcement officers, negative by the most charitable interpretation, is sheer tragedy. Can they not be moved to righteous indignation against cowardly, vicious hoodlums?

Women Present Infirmary To Camp Young

Norfolk, Va.

NORFOLK — The generous instinct of the women of the community bore notable fruit Sunday when a refurbished and well-equipped infirmary for the boys and girls who'll enjoy Camp E. W. Young was formally presented to the cooperative camp committee by the Ladies Aid for the project.

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Mrs. Lula McNeil, a nurse in Norfolk county, and secretary of the Ladies Aid for Camp E. W. Young, presided at the public program held in the camp assembly hall. Invocation was offered by the Rev. W. L. Hamilton, and remarks of welcome made by Horace G. Christopher, Hunton Branch YMCA secretary, on behalf of the joint camp committee.

NEIGHBORS COMMENDED

Lawrence Ransome of the First Baptist Church, Berkley, recited a Bible story, following which remarks were made by Mrs. Alfred C. Fentress of the YWCA, Miss Audrey Mercer of the Girl Scouts staff, and Mrs. Yeargin, who made the formal presentation.

Acceptance of the infirmary was by the Rev. Richard B. Martin, on behalf of H. C. Young, chairman of the joint committee, who was out of the city. Sat. 7-10-48

A special presentation was made to Mr. and Mrs. Hosea Durham, who live near the camp in Bell's Mill, for the keen interest they and other members of their family have shown in giving volunteer supervision to the camp property during the months it is closed. The gift, from the camp committee, was presented by Mr. Christopher and accepted by Mrs. Durham.

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Regular classes were carried on the next morning (Friday) without further interference. Then the matter was reported to Girl Scout officials. In turn the incident was reported to Solicitor Sullinger of the Bessemer Cutoff. He declared Friday that his investigation had begun. Chief Deputy Sheriff Clyde Morris also was informed and promised a thorough and vigorous investigation.

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Negro Scout Program Out At Girl Camp

The Constitution
Atlanta, Ga.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 14—(AP)—The Jefferson County Girls Scout Council announced today it will reopen a camp for Negro Girl Scouts which was closed last week after a band of robed and hooded men ordered two white women instructors to leave town.

Meanwhile, a Birmingham attorney asked the Alabama Attorney General to revoke the charter of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., an Alabama corporation. Tues. 6-15-48

Announcing plans to reopen the Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer Thursday, the county council requested that police officers furnish protection sufficient that there be no further incidents at the camp.

Circuit Solicitor Howard Sullinger said he was informed a band of men estimated at 100, entered the camp Thursday night and told the two white instructors to "get out in 24 hours."

The instructors were Miss Katrine Nickel, 39, Birmingham, and Miss Elizabeth Ijams, 39, Knoxville, Tenn. They were training 21 Negro women as directors of Negro Girl Scout camps throughout the South.

The training course was scheduled to end Thursday, but was canceled last Friday on direction of National Girl Scout Headquarters in New York City. 6-15-48

The council issued a statement saying it "views with grave concern the attack upon law and order and the rights of all citizens, and the violence and threats, perpetrated upon its members by a hooded and uniformed group of men at Camp Paulin Bray Fletcher. Tues. 6-15-48

"The Council calls upon the constituted authorities for investigation of this lawless act . . . and prosecution of the offenders, and for full protection to the Council and all of its representatives and to all the children participating in its program at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher and elsewhere in the county. . . . The Constitution

"The Council reaffirms its intention to support its interracial committee and to continue its program among Negro girls in Jefferson County within the framework of local law as has been its custom. . . ." Atlanta, Ga.

Revocation of the Klan charter was requested in a letter to Atty. Gen. Albert A. Carmichael by Abe Berkowitz, Birmingham lawyer.

Girl Scouts Say Sheeted Band Called

The Post
Washington, D.C.

Birmingham, Ala., June 12 (U.P.).—County officials and the FBI today investigated the story of two white Girl Scout leaders, who said they were intimidated at a camp for Negro girls by a band of white robed and hooded men.

The two girls, Katrine Nickel of Birmingham and Elizabeth Ijams of Knoxville, Tenn., said they were "speechless" when the 8 or 10 men invaded their sleeping quarters about midnight Thursday.

The girls said they were ordered to "get out by tomorrow night."

Some 100 yards away, 21 Negro girls, being trained by Miss Nickel and Miss Ijams, were not awakened by the night-riding band. The convoy included about 20 cars, but only "8 or 10" men came into camp. Sun. 6-13-48

"They entered the tent and woke us up by shining flashlights in our faces," Miss Nickel said. "We were dressed only in nightgowns."

Miss Ijams said the men searched their billfolds. One said he was looking for "cards with hammers and sickles on them."

Miss Nickel said the Negro girls were sent home yesterday.

Mrs. L. E. Geohegan, a member of the local Girl Scout Council, said the purpose of the camp was to train Negro girls in Scout leadership so that they could conduct similar courses for other Negro girls.

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GIRL SCOUTS TO PRESS TRAINING OF LEADERS

The Commercial Appeal
Memphis, Tenn.

Bessemer 'Raid' Denounced By National Headquarters

Sat. 6-26-48

NEW YORK, June 25.—(AP)—Threats against training negro Girl Scouts will not stop the Girl Scouts in their drive to see members and train leaders of all races, national Scout headquarters said Friday in denouncing the raid by robed men at a Bessemer, Ala., camp.

An estimated 100 men entered the Bessemer camp on the night of June 10 and ordered two white women instructors to leave within 24 hours. They were instructing negro women as Scout leaders.

The camp was closed the following day.

Mrs. Paul Rittenhouse, Girl Scout national director, said national officers investigated the incident thoroughly and found it "completely unwarranted."

She said the National Executive Committee adopted the following resolution:

"It will continue to be the policy of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America to serve all their members regardless of race or creed, and to extend membership as rapidly as possible to all those who wish to join.

"We shall continue our country-wide program of training adults for leadership and shall provide for this purpose the best available instructors drawn from local groups and the national staff." Sat.

At Birmingham, the Baptist pastors conference was the latest organization to demand that authorities "take steps to make it less likely that such an incident shall happen again in our community."

The ministers described the raid as "shameful." 6-26-48

Officials of the Federated Ku Klux Klan, Inc., said the organization had no official part in the raid.

The sheriff's office said an investigation of the incident is still in progress.

Inquiry Into Raid On Camp Ready

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

County law enforcement officers today were ready to make public results of their investigation of the night raid June 10 on Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, near Bessemer, by a band of white-robed, masked men.

Sheriff Holt A. McDowell went into conference at the Bessemer Courthouse this morning with Clyde Morris, chief deputy sheriff for the Bessemer Cutoff, who has had charge of the investigation; Howard Sullinger, circuit solicitor for the Bessemer Cutoff, and two state investigators. Tues

Chief Deputy Morris had stated Saturday that his investigation had failed to develop information that would justify swearing out warrants in the case. 6-22-48

Five deputy sheriffs have been working with Chief Deputy Morris in trying to determine identity of the night raiders, who invaded the tent occupied by two white women instructors — Miss Katrine Nickel and Miss Elizabeth Ijams—at Camp Fletcher. The two instructors had charge of a school for some 20 Negro Girl Scout leaders from over the South at the time.

THE SCHOOL WAS CLOSED on orders of national Girl Scout headquartters after the raid. The hooded band ordered Miss Ijams and Miss Nickel to leave the area 'within 24 hours."

The Young Men's Business Club of Birmingham today had joined Atty. Abe Berkowitz in demanding revocation of the state charter of the Ku Klux Klan.

A resolution was adopted by the organization at its weekly luncheon in the Redmont Hotel yesterday requesting the governor and attorney general of the state to take action at once to revoke the Klan charter. 6-22-48

Negro Girl Scouts Will Get Camping, In Atlanta

The News
Birmingham, Ala.

Negro Girl Scouts of Jefferson County will go to Atlanta July 22 for a 10-day camping period.

Their regular camp at Camp Fletcher, near Bessemer, was cancelled after a band of hooded, white-robed men visited the area the night of June 10 and ordered two white women instructors to leave "in 24 hours." Fri.

But the Atlanta Council of Girl Scouts offered to make the Atlanta camp available for Negro Girl Scouts, it was announced by Miss Esther Stratmoen, chairman of the interracial committee of the Jefferson County Council of Girl Scouts. 7-2-48

Acceptance of the Atlanta offer was made possible by the generosity of a group of Birmingham citizens who will pay traveling expenses of the scouts to and from Atlanta.

* * *

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT in investigation of the disturbance at Camp Pauline was a request from the Birmingham chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that organized labor issue a strong statement condemning the June 10 raid. "We urge you for the sake of decency and the good of trade unionism to issue a strong statement in conemnation of the Fletcher camp incident in particular an the upsurge of Ku Klux Klan in general," the chapter said.

Copies of the letter were sent to William Mitch, district president, United Mine Workers; Jack Brock, president, Alabama Federation of Labor; Carey Haigler, president, Alabama CIO; Ben Gage, president, CIO Industrial Council; Sam Douglass, secretary, Birmingham Federation of Labor.

MEANWHILE, there was no word from State Atty. Gen. A. A. Carmichael as to whether he will start proceedings to revoke the Klan's charter to operate in Alabama.

Nor had Sheriff Holt A. McDowell received a reply from two federal agencies on his request for federal assistance in investigating the case.

Clyde Morris, chief deputy sheriff for the Bessemer Cutoff, reported "no progress" in his investigation.

Not Getting Out

To the Editor of The News:

Please let me ask Mrs. George B. Hicks, who wrote "Like It or Get Out," what au-

Yours truly,
FAYE BELL HARRIS.
118 Second Avenue, South.

Girl Scout Program Dealt Hard Blow By Hooded Gang Raid, Official Says; Investigation Pressed

The Girl Scout program of training Negroes of Jefferson County for better citizenship has been dealt a distressing blow by the appearance of some 100 hooded, robed men at a Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer.

This was the judgment Saturday of Mrs. L. E. Geohegan, Jefferson County Girl Scout commissioner, as county officers investigating the incident said they have found no clues as to the identity of members of the hooded band.

Meanwhile, the two white women instructors at the camp who were ordered to leave the area "in 24 hours" were making plans to leave Birmingham Monday or Tuesday.

Mrs. Geohegan said every effort was made to continue the training school at Camp Pauline Bray Fletcher, seven miles southeast of Bessemer, where the Thursday night incident occurred.

School Called Off

THE SCHOOL, BEING CONDUCTED by two white women instructors, Miss Katrine Nickel, Birmingham, and Miss Elizabeth Ijams, of Knoxville, Tenn., was called off by National Girl Scout headquarters in New York City. The course, started June 2, would have been completed Wednesday. Twenty-one Negro Girl Scout leaders from Birmingham and other Southern cities were being trained to become counselors and directors for Negro Girl Scout camps.

Mrs. Geohegan said the local Girl Scout Council "wanted to save the school but we had to consider the safety of those at the camp, the safety of the two white women and the safety of the 21 Negro students."

She said a conference was held with Bessemer Circuit Solicitor Howard Sullinger on what steps might be taken to protect the students and instructors if the school were continued.

Attending this conference were Dr. and Mrs. William H. Marmion, Mrs. Geohegan and Miss Esther Stratmoen, a member of the interracial committee of the Girl Scout Council.

The conference developed that Solicitor Sullinger would ask the sheriff's office for "protection" of the camp if the two white instructors would sleep in Bessemer or Birmingham and return to the camp during the day for instruction of the students.

The discussion brought out that "only two deputies are available for cruising about the camp . . . that this number of men would be futile against 100 . . . that for the safety of all concerned at the camp, the school should close unless the two white instructors found sleeping quarters elsewhere."

Camp Evacuated

AS ARRANGEMENTS were being made to provide outside-camp sleeping quarters for Miss Nickel, 39, and Miss Ijams, 39, the national office of Girl Scouts, Inc., ordered the school closed. The camp was accordingly evacuated of all school personnel and equipment Friday.

"This is a deplorable thing," Mrs. Geohegan said. "But we shall continue to carry out plans for our Summer camping program for Negro Girl Scouts."

Mrs. Geohegan said a Negro Girl Scout camp at the site was scheduled to start next Thursday. She said the camp had been loaned to the Girl Scout Council for the month of June by the Girls Service League, a Negro agency of the Community Chest.

The first two weeks of June had been set aside by the council for out-of-state training of Negro counselors and directors while the last two weeks will see training of local Negro Girl Scout leaders under the direction of Mildred Johnson, Negro staff worker for the local council.

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FBI Told Of Incident

A REPORT OF THE INCIDENT was made Friday to the Birmingham office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

George King, special agent in charge of the FBI office here, said he had "no comment" on the matter.

Whether there will be an investigation of the matter by the FBI or the U. S. district attorney's office here has not been made known.

Col. John D. Hill, the district attorney, is expected to return to his offices tomorrow.

Sources close to Col. Hill's office said the matter might possibly have involved the federal statute about "a conspiracy to deprive a citizen of his or her civil rights."

Sheriff Holt McDowell said he understood his Bessemer office, under Chief Deputy Clyde Morris, is making an investigation. The sheriff, however, said he knows of no state law under which an arrest could be made.

In other quarters at the courthouse, it was pointed out that state statutes could possibly have been involved in the incident as regards trespassing, using force or intimidation to prevent other persons from engaging in their lawful occupations and the gathering of a "mob."

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Sleeping Block Apart

THE TWO WHITE WOMEN instructors had been sleeping in a tent about a block or more from the sleeping quarters of the Negro students at the camp.

About 11 o'clock Thursday night while asleep, they were roused by the flashlights of a group of hooded, robed men in their tent.

The two women said the intruders shot questions at them as they lay in their beds, defenseless. No one laid a hand on them, they said.

Their personal belongings were ransacked and their names were taken down by the hooded visitors, who left after about 15 minutes of interrogation.

The men wore robes which carried a symbol of some sort over the heart area. The symbol seemed to be a red cross on a black background, Miss Nickel and Miss Ijams said, although they added they weren't too sure about the design because they were frightened at the time.

Later the two women said they were "more mad than scared."

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Was Klan Involved?

WILLIAM HUGH MORRIS, secretary-treasurer of Ku Klux Klan, Inc., an Alabama corporation, said he was trying to find out whether the Klan at Bessemer was involved in the incident.

He said the man whom he had hoped to contact on the matter had gone fishing over the week-end, but that he'd get in touch with him sometime Monday.

Morris said the two white women "ought not to have been sleeping in that area."

Residents Shed No Light

CLYDE MORRIS, chief deputy sheriff for the Bessemer Cutoff, said he had talked with Negro residents in the camp vicinity. None of them could shed any light on identifying any members of the hooded band, he said.

The chief deputy said he planned to talk with other people of the area over the week-end.

Circuit Solicitor Howard Sullinger said he had men still working on the case.

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Women Defend Action

MISS NICKEL AND Miss Ijams made it clear they were not trying to run counter to any segregation customs of this district.

They said they conduct such training schools in other parts of the South occasionally and in each place they try to operate the schools in accordance with community custom and principle.

They said they did not feel they were violating any segregation customs or principles in sleeping in the camp area, a block or more from where students at the school were housed.

Miss Nickel, a native of Montgomery and former executive director of the Montgomery Girl Scout Council, is a graduate of Huntingdon College.

Miss Ijams, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., has served as executive director of Girl Scout Councils at Knoxville, Nashville and Winston-Salem, N. C. She is a graduate of the University of Tennessee.

Condoning A Crime?

The citizen comment reported by Bessemer Chief Deputy Sheriff Clyde Morris on the masked raid on a Girl Scout camp near Bessemer to the effect that "the visit has had a good effect on the community" presents a strange and disturbing aspect of his inquiry.

Law was violated in the raid by a hooded and masked group that went into the sleeping quarters of two white Girl Scout leaders and searched their belongings and effects. Such action seems a clear violation of the federal constitution's prohibition against illegal seizure and search, as well as against state law.

Just what is the purpose of Chief Deputy Morris in emphasizing statements that violations of such basic and important rights of men are a good thing for a community? This is significant information. But if it is to be regarded as truly representative, it must be shown to have been thoroughly and scientifically compiled.

The report made by Mr. Morris says all persons interviewed by his deputies in the neighborhood of the camp think the raid's results have been good. Questions might be raised as to the competence of the investigation. But in any case such opinion does not alter the stark and outrageous facts of law violation, and surely no encouragement of such views should be given by any officials.

It is disquieting for a law-enforcement officer to emphasize generalized talk that a crime was a good thing. The duty of the chief deputy in this instance would be to ascertain, first, if a law violation was committed, and, second, who committed it.

If the sheriff's office is seeking enlightenment on public opinion, it can find plenty of intense feeling that this visit by disguised persons to the segregated quarters of two white Girl Scout leaders was an outrageous crime against law and order and a terrible thing for the community.

It can find such evidence in the resolution adopted this week by the Birmingham Young Men's Business Club, in resolutions by ministerial groups, in sermons directed against the crime, in actions by public bodies of many kinds and in the expressed opinions of many citizens.

Chief Deputy Morris alongside his report that 92 residents of the community condone the raid should place all the expressions of condemnation. And having done that, he should then go ahead, earnestly and purposefully, with his major business, not of ascertaining public opinion, but of enforcing the law.

Hooded Raid Effect 'Good,' Poll Reveals

BIRMINGHAM, June 22—(AP)—The raid of white-robed men on a Negro Girl Scout camp near Bessemer, Ala., on June 10 was approved by a majority of residents of that area, Chief Deputy Sheriff Clyde Morris declared today.

The officer's statement was in a "partial report" of the incident to Prosecutor Howard Sullinger.

Two white women, Misses Kathrine Nickel and Elizabeth Ijams, were ordered to leave the camp by about 100 robed and hooded men. They were instructing Negro girl leaders, and occupied separate quarters.

Morris said in his report the raid was "a well-planned affair." The deputy said 92 residents of the area had been interviewed.

All (both white and colored) are of the opinion that the visit had a good effect on the community," Morris' report said.

Morris did not report identification of any member of the hooded band. He added that his investigation would go on "locally and otherwise with the expressed hope of bringing the offenders to reckoning."

OFFICIALS DEFY DIXIE!

New York—Despite the invasion of a Girl Scouts training camp near Bessemer, Ala., on June 11 by a band of masked and robed men, officials of the organization refuse to be intimidated, it was learned this week, when they announced that they would continue to conduct training centers of the kind throughout the country.

The camp was ordered broken up by the men after two white women instructors had been searched and told that the residents of the area "don't except the two instructors like Negroes and whites living together." Unpleasant rumors were later circulated about the camp and its occupants, all of whom were Negroes, regardless of race or creed, and to extend membership as rapidly as possible to all those who wish to join."

The national office stated, "it will continue to be the policy of the Girl Scouts . . . to serve all their members